Truth About Pension Changes For New Hires

For roughly the last ten years, the St. Louis Police Retirement System (PRS) has been actively advocating for pension plan redesign that would largely impact commissioned employees hired after the changes went into effect.

The PRS seemed to believe that the City of St. Louis couldn’t sustain its required annual contribution to the system without some form of plan redesign going forward.

In the meantime, the City groused about increases some form of plan trying to talk around in the meantime, the what kind of wage redesign going us to the Legislature, plan.

That all changed in November 2016 with the exit of Mayor Francis Slay, who didn’t want to see the City of St. Louis go through the hassle of trying to get new bond deals. hooked on Page 20

Pension plan changes don’t reduce the liability of the system, they reduce the liability of the City and if the City is going to save money, they have to use the savings to fund much needed police raises that leave current and future employees better off than they were before.

The City never really wanted to have a serious conversation about funding police raises with pension savings because in order for the deal to be a net positive for members, the City would have to dip into the General Revenue to augment the funding for raises.

That was a non-starter. Until now.

In the Fall of last year, the leadership of the PRS and the leadership of the SLPOA met and the PRS president and legislative chairman pitched a plan that looked mighty familiar. It was identical to the 2018 plan.

We said “no thank you,” reminding them that our position hadn’t changed: the City has to put up or shut up.

The City didn’t shut up.

They started talking.

This time, instead of trying to talk around us to the Legislature, they were talking directly to us about what kind of wage increases some modest plan changes for new hires might generate. We kept telling them we weren’t interested and then, we got to their final number: $10,000 over the next three years.

Now, we were interested.

The cost of a $10,000 raise for the City is about $20 million per year. That’s a lot of dough. A lot more than they save in pension liability, which would come down about $3.4 million in the first year because of the proposed legislative switch to the Entry Age Normal method of valuation. A lot more than the additional $1.9 million in Prop P sales tax revenue anticipated as a result of increased taxable purchases. A lot more than the additional $1.4 million generated by the proposed 2% increase in the employee plan contribution of 9% rather than the current 7%. The City would have to come up with over $13 million out of General Revenue according to our calculations. About $3 million of the additional money the City would have to come up with would be going into the PRS system the first year and ultimately, the City would be paying more, not less, into the pension system because of the big increases to payroll.

This would provide the stability to the system that the PRS, the SLPOA, and police retirees and widows have long gnashed their teeth over. The
“In memory of the Saint Louis Police Officers who have made the Ultimate Sacrifice”

DURING THE MONTH OF MARCH

DURING THE MONTH OF MARCH

BE CAREFUL OUT THERE!

Cont. on pg. 15

PUBLISHING NOTE: This edition of the Gendarme is a double-issue for February and March.

GENERAL MEMBERSHIP
March 25
April 29
7 p.m.

E-BOARD MEETING
March 25
April 29
4:30 p.m.

VETERAN’S MEETING
March 11
April 8
11:30 p.m.

POLICE WIVES MEETING
March 11
April 8
7 p.m.
2020
BLACK HISTORY MONTH
SLMPD

Those Who Have Paved the Way - Celebrating Their Accomplishments Past & Present

Commissioner John Hayden 1987 - Present

Colonel Daniel Brown 1988 - 2003

Colonel Ronald Henderson 1970 - 2001

Colonel Clarence Harmon 1969 - 1995


Lt. Colonel Everett E. Page 1984 - 2003


Lt. Colonel Herbert L. Harris 1979 - 2005

Lt. Colonel Alfred J. Adkins 1980 - 2005

Lt. Colonel Bonnie Robinson 1990 - Present

Lt. Colonel Rochelle D. Jones 1988 - Present

First African American Female Lt. Colonel

Major Thomas E. Brooks 1987 - 1994

Major James F. Beddick 1979 - 1982

Major Charles Wren 1972 - 1973

Major Beverly Noble-Barnes 1997 - 2009

Major Darryl Davis 1990 - Present

Captains Edward Bolden 1935 - 1936

Captain Ernest Hodge 1941 - 1942

Captain Guy C. Mason 1952 - 1967

Captain Lawrence Hamilton 1952 - 1957

Captain Robert Lewis 1958 - 1959

Captain Dennis Blackman 1981 - 1982

Captain Charles Lipkin 1965 - 1966

Captain Donald W. Fields 1968 - 1972

Captain L. Junior Dobbs 1968 - 2009

Captain Eugene Brown 1955 - 2004

Captain David Brown 1956 - 2007

Captain Mary Louise Franklin 1980 - 2009

Captain Ruel Gates 1985 - 2010

Captain Ronald Louis 1992 - Present

Captain Perry Johnson 1992 - Present

Captain Danny Moore 1997 - Present
Working Under A Suspended CBA, It's Not What You Think

By Jeff Roorda

On March 18, the City declared a "Civil Emergency" and notified the Union of its intent to suspend the CBA under that clause. The implications of invoking that clause in the contract may be different that you would expect and are almost certainly different from the City intended. The best way to help you understand what the Civil Emergency clause does and doesn't accomplish is to share with you the Union's written response to the City, which was sent to Director of Public Safety Jimmie Edwards and cc'd to the Mayor's Office, the Director of Personnel and the Chief of Police. Here it is:

Judge Edwards,

Please allow this email to serve as acknowledgement of the receipt of your letter dated today's date (scanned copy attached) that you presented to me at our meeting at 4pm today, which purportedly invokes the "Extreme Civil Emergency clauses under the Collective Bargaining Agreement."

I was a bit taken aback when we met by this unexpected development so there are some points of clarification I'd like to address now. I assume that your letter is meant to suspend the provisions of the CBA's for both Police Officers and Police Sergeants pursuant to Article 3, Section 2 of each of the agreements. I also assume that your email is not meant to suspend the CBA negotiated on behalf of our Civilian Personnel Division as there is no Civil Emergency clause in that agreement.

Please correct me if I misunderstood the intention of your letter.

Assuming I did not, I wanted to address some issues that may arise as the result of the CBA suspension.

I want to say that above all, the Union believes that your intentions are pure in the exercise of this extraordinary clause of the CBA. But, I must point out that the potential for abuse of the rights of bargaining unit members as a result of the suspension of the CBA's by agents of the employer with less pure motives is serious and real should not be discounted.

Here are some things to consider.

First and foremost, the CBA's may only be suspended in the case of an emergency. Your Police Chief has been extraordinarily cavalier to the COVID-19 threat and has conducted himself as though none of this affects him or his subordinates. The Union obviously disagrees with this dismissive posture on the part of the Police Chief but, if he wants to declare an emergency, he also has to respond to this situation with some degree of urgency. As recently as this morning, the Chief was dismissive of any attempt by his middle management to treat the COVID threat with the urgency it deserves because, as the chief incorrectly insisted, "law enforcement is at low risk for infection." Either this is an emergency or it isn't. The Chief can't treat it as a non-issue in his tactical response and then seek a declaration of emergency just to disencumber himself from his duties and responsibilities under the CBA.

It is also critical that the City's leadership understands that the Employer has a good faith duty under the CBA to, "...return to normal operations as soon as the conditions that led to the declaration of an emergency no longer significantly interfere with operations of the Department." We expect the City to honor that obligation.

Moreover, the suspension of the CBA does not relieve the Employer of its obligations under the terms and conditions of the CBA. It merely prevents the Union from grieving violations of the CBA during the period of the suspension. As the CBA establishes, the declaration of an emergency, "...shall neither limit an employee's right to invoke the grievance procedure in a timely manner after the cessation of the emergency, nor limit the protections granted by the terms of this agreement."

Likewise, the Union is prevented from disposing of Grievances during the period of the contract suspension so please take note that the settlement agreement and the grievance withdrawal that Union committed to his inner circle despise the union and loathe the notion that the CBA restricts them from acting with impunity. We will see to it that this Chief answers for his absence of leadership whether there is a CBA in force or not.

Additionally, I want to point out that the Constitutional duty of the City to bargain in good faith over terms and conditions of employment cannot be suspended by the unilateral fiat of the Employer. The Union and the Employer are in the midst of bargaining new CBA's for Sergeants, PO's and Civilians and the Employer's duty to bargain persists regardless of this declaration of an emergency. Nobody, not even the Governor, can suspend the Constitution of Missouri and our union has rights to good faith bargaining under Article I, Section 29 of the State's Bill of Rights.

Finally, I want to remind you that the Union has demanded a Labor-Management Conference in order to receive a full briefing on the City's plans to protect our members from COVID-19 exposures and to address those exposures should they occur. If the intention of the Employer in invoking this declaration of emergency under the CBA is to wriggle out of its responsibilities to account for the safety of our members, that is completely unacceptable. The City has 7 days under the terms of Article 22 of the CBA to oblige the Union's demand for a Labor-Management Conference irrespective of the suspension of the CBA. If the LMC does not occur by the 7th day after the demand (which is tomorrow) the Union will file a grievance as soon as the state of emergency ceases.

As always, we appreciate your willingness to communicate with the Union particularly in light of the Police Chief's refusal to do so. Let's keep an open line of communication during this declared period of Civil Emergency to avoid any misunderstandings or contract violations.

Yours in service to this fair City,

Jeff Roorda
Business Manager
St. Louis Police Officers Assn.
Things have been moving fast since the COVID-19 outbreak was declared a global pandemic. On March 11 and President Trump declared it a national emergency the next day.

We have been working around the clock to service our members. It's been a hectic, scary time.

There was too little planning by the police department for this predictable emergency. The department response was deeply flawed. Lifesaving safety equipment was in short supply and it took way too long to get it to our officers. And, the Chief showed a complete lack of leadership and a sense of denial that endangered our members.

We've been dealing with that and so much more since this crisis kicked off.

And we won't rest until we know that the City and the Department are doing everything they can to keep you safe.

That's made for some frantic days but I'm terribly proud of the way the Association has risen to the challenge on behalf of our members.

But, we've had to neglect some of the day-to-day functions of the Union. One of those was getting the Gendarme out on time. We deeply apologize for that and we didn't intend to combine February and March into a single issue but circumstances dictated otherwise.

And the same circumstances dictate that I cut this column short.

But, it's not because I think communications with our members and subscribers aren't important. As a matter of fact, the reason I'm so pressed for time is the massive amount of work that has gone into communicating with all of our members through our "daily updates" that are emailed out to everyone who has registered through our website.

Until this crisis comes under control, we will continue to put out an email update every day because we want to keep you informed of quickly changing developments.

If you're a member or a retiree and you haven't registered on our website, please go to http://www.slpoa.org and get registered.

Putting the Gendarme out every month is important to us but communicating with you on a daily basis is absolutely critical, so please get signed up.

And, please, be safe and vigilant.
idea of a shrinking number of police officers receiving stagnant wages keeps the system afloat worried a lot of us. Under this plan, the increased wages not only mean more money coming in by way of contributions from our current police officers, it means that the 150 serial vacancies in the department will likely be filled quickly is recruiting and retention both would benefit from the considerable bump in wages.

And what about those new hires? Don’t they come out on the short-end of the stick? Not even close.

Under the new plan, new hires who leave before they reach ten years of service still get their full return of contribution. And, if they make it to ten years, they get a monthly benefit for the rest of their lives starting at 55 years of age. That’s a much better deal than current employees who have to work 20 years to get the lifetime benefit.

And, while it’s true that new hires who reach ten years of service won’t receive a return of contribution, the $10,000 raise more than makes up for that.

Currently, if you retire as a PO right at 20 years, you get about $70,000 in return of contribution. Twenty years from now, that number would have probably been closer to $100,000 without this big raise. If new hires took that extra $10,000 per year and put it in an IRA that made just 5%, they’d have around $700,000 in their retirement account after 20 years. We know cops aren’t likely to invest that wisely but even if they don’t make a red cent on that money, an additional $10,000 per year for the next twenty years is $200,000, roughly double what they would have gotten in the form of a lump sum.

That’s a lot of dough.

We still have a lot of work to do. The legislative process is challenging in a good year. An election year with the implications of corona-mania is sure to make passage of a pension plan redesign an uphill battle.

But, it shouldn’t die because of misinformation. A contingent of misinformed opponents to the legislation led by a disgraced former SLPOA President who was thrown out of the Association of misconduct has been busy trying to stifle this legislation with a disinformation campaign.

You need to know what this plan really means for police officers past, present and future: Everybody wins; the system becomes more solvent than ever before; retirees don’t have to worry if their next check is still coming; current employees lose no benefits and receive a five-digit raise; and, future employees come out smelling like a rose.

Some people will tell you we should have held out for a better deal.

These are people who’ve never negotiated with the City or the PRS.

There is no better deal.

Like it or not, this is the best deal we’re going to get, take it or leave it.

We say, “take it.”

To Contact
SLPOA
Call
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MARCH IS

Women's History Month

Lt. Colonel
Toni Filla

Lt. Colonel
Rochelle D. Jones

Major
Angela Coonce

Major
Beverly Noble-Barnes

Major
Mary Warnecke

Captain
Janice Bockstruck

Captain
Mary Edwards-Fears

Captain
Renee Kriesmann

Captain
Chrisli Marks

Captain
Gwen Spicer

Be the change you don’t see!
**COVID-19 Workers’ Compensation Claims**

By Brian P. Millikan

**LEGAL CORNER**

First and foremost, I want to express my deepest gratitude to police officers and first responders in the region for answering the call to service under extremely difficult circumstances. Whether it is a violent protest, a natural disaster or a pandemic, society leans on you to do the work that most of us are unwilling to do. I sincerely thank you for that.

A member recently asked me whether the workers’ compensation law covers officers who become infected with the COVID-19 virus while on duty. It is a good question. As of this writing there are no current rules or court decisions that provide guidance to employers, insurance carriers or employees on the treatment of exposure to COVID-19 with respect to workers’ compensation coverage.

Courts would likely interpret the COVID-19 pandemic as an “Act of God”. Generally speaking, injuries caused by an act of God are not compensable under the workers’ compensation law. However, courts have created exceptions to this general rule where the nature of the employment subjects the employee to risks and hazards from acts of God over and above those to which the public is generally exposed.

In this instance, citizens employed in non-essential positions across the region have been ordered to stay home except when seeking essential services. Police officers and other first responders are considered essential positions and therefore these orders do not apply to them. Not only are police officers expected to report to work while most civilians stay home, police officers are expected to answer calls for service and interact with the public as needed as part of their duty. Furthermore, with the current shortage of personal protective equipment, police officers will at times be left unprotected during these interactions. This significantly increases their exposure to the COVID-19 virus compared to the general population.

While I believe a strong argument can be made for coverage, we need our political leaders to step up and pass an emergency order to ensure that workers’ compensation benefits are available to police officers and other first responders so there is no ambiguity. Michigan recently enacted an emergency order.

Western Golf Association
Evans Scholars Foundation

The Evans Scholars Foundation awards full tuition and housing scholarships to the University of Missouri for deserving caddies in financial need. Nationally the program is funding over 1000 scholarships at 18 leading universities in the 2019-20 academic year.

A boy or girl you know may qualify for this once-in-a-lifetime opportunity if they’re willing to spend their weekends outdoors on a golf course making good money by caddying. A representative of the program is presenting an informational meeting at the SLPOA headquarters to provide additional details on date TBD.

You might go home with information that will change a young person’s life.

**St. Louis Policemen’s Credit Union**

Call 444-5392

**NEW TELEPHONE APP IS HERE:**

Our new telephone APP is available. Anyone with a smart phone can access the APP through our website, Google or Apple APP stores. Now it is easy to check your account balances and transfer money within your account. The present telephone teller will be turned off in the immediate future. We also will have a new look to our website in early March with many new features. We enjoy talking to our members but in the interest of good service we urge you to use our new features to your advantage.

Jo Ann and Elda are awaiting to help you with your next loan.

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(Officer JEFF TRARES Mom!!)

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Herman Joseph Krus

Birth: October 18, 1939
Death: February 27, 2020 (aged 80)

Officer Herman J. Krus, DSN 4804, was commissioned on 07/15/1963. After the police academy he served in the following districts during his career. They were the 7th, 3rd, 1st, 9th, and finally the 1st. Officer Krus retired on 07/20/1993 and served a total of 30.02 years of faithful and dedicated service to the Saint Louis Metropolitan Police Department.

Officer Krus was a veteran of the United States Army and served from 08/01/1959 to 08/01/1961 and achieved the rank of Specialist 4th Class. He was the son of the late Mr. & Mrs. John L. and Caroline (nee Guzior) Krus.

Fortified with the Sacraments of Holy Mother Church Thursday, February 27, 2020. Beloved husband for 53 years of Dolores Krus (nee Rohlmann); and served a total of 19.52 years of faithful and dedicated service to the Saint Louis Metropolitan Police Department. They were the 4th, Tactical Deployment Division, and the Training Division at the academy. Officer Krus was a veteran of the United States Army and served from 08/01/1959 to 08/01/1961 and achieved the rank of Specialist 4th Class. He was the son of the late Mr. & Mrs. John L. and Caroline (nee Guzior) Krus.

A U.S. Army veteran, serving in Germany from 1959-1961, and a member of St. Louis Police Veterans Association.

The family would like to thank the staff at Seasons Hospice for all their love and care given to Herman.

Timothy William “Tim” Diffley

Birth: September 18, 1946
Death: February 25, 2020 (aged 73)

Officer Timothy W. Diffley, DSN 5371, was originally hired as a police cadet on 07/26/1965. In this capacity he worked in the following divisions for the Saint Louis Metropolitan Police Department. They were the 4th, Tactical Deployment Division, and the Training Division at the academy. Officer Diffley received his commission and started the police academy on 10/09/1967. Officer Diffley subsequently served in the 4th, 8th, and the 4th. Officer Diffley resigned his commission on 02/27/1977 and sought employment in the private sector. Officer Diffley returned to the department on 03/13/1978 and served in the Bureau of Field Operations’, and finally the 4th district. Officer Diffley retired on 10/31/1988 and served a total of 19.52 years of faithful and dedicated service to the Saint Louis Metropolitan Police Department.

Dearest son of the late Mr. & Mrs. Bernard P. and Catherine M. (nee Belcher) Diffley.

Fortified with the Sacraments of Holy Mother Church Tuesday, February 25, 2020. Beloved husband of Joan Levy Diffley (nee Loomstein); dear father of Michael (Jennifer) Diffley, Molly (Paul) Xenakis, Maggie (Mike) Brown and the late Lisa (surviving Dan) Alsop; dear brother of Edward ”Skip”, Kathy, Tom, Sue, Terri and the late Pat and Bette Jo; our dear brother-in-law, uncle, great-uncle, cousin and friend.
GONE, BUT NOT FORGOTTEN

We stand on the shoulders of those who have gone before us.

CPT Edward Lawrence Boni

Birth: December 15, 1924
Death: February 20, 2020 (aged 95)

Captain Edward L. Boni, DSN 0209, received his commission on 09/28/1953 and entered the police academy. Upon completion of the academy he served in the following districts and specialized divisions throughout his career. They were the 10th, Bureau of Investigation, 12th, 3rd, Bureau of Field Operations, 9th, Liquor and Morality Section, Burglary-Robbery Section, Homicide Section. He was promoted to the command rank of Sergeant while he was in the Burglary-Robbery Section on 10/25/1972 and was subsequently transferred to the 9th. On 09/11/1977 he was promoted to the rank of Lieutenant and transferred to the 3rd as a watch commander, followed by an assignment in the 2nd district, and the Criminal Investigation Division. While he was in the C.I.D. Section he was promoted to Captain on 01/22/1984 and served in the Bureau of Field Operations and lastly in the 9th district. During his career he was awarded 4 Chief's Letters of Commendation on 06/01/66, 07/01/1967, 07/01/1970, and 08/25/1977 for outstanding police work above the call of duty. Captain Boni retired on 08/06/1987 he had served a total of 33.85 years of faithful and dedicated service to the Saint Louis Metropolitan Police Department.

Captain Boni was a veteran of the United States Army and served during World War II and attained the rank of Private First Class.

Edward Lawrence Boni, age 95 of St. Peters, passed away on Thursday, February 20, 2020. He is the beloved husband of the late Patricia Boni of 56 years.

The loving father of Danny (Patti), Michael (Cathi), Patrick (Laura), Edward (Jacklyn) and Janet (Darryn) Downey; proud grandfather of Jason (Chasity), Kris, Justin, Patrick (Renée), Bruce, Megan and Jack; cherished great grandfather of Dani, Mckenna, Ryken and Kolten.

He was born on December 15, 1924 in St. Louis, MO to the late Ed Boni and CPT Edward Lawrence Boni the late Merle Boni. He was an active member of All Saints Catholic Church.

Ed was a retired Police Captain of the St. Louis Metropolitan Police Department in St. Louis and served for 33 years. He was a proud decorated World War II Veteran in the U.S. Army, receiving many honors including the Bronze Star.

He was a “larger than life” strong, Italian man with a heart of gold. Also known as a True American Hero. He had a love for martinis, gambling at the casino and many trips to Destin, FL. Ed loved spending time with his family and cherished the moments spent together, they were his everything.

William Edgar McNabb, Jr

Birth: April 11, 1942
Death: February 13, 2020 (aged 77)

Officer William E. McNabb, Jr., DSN 4965, received his commission on 12/30/1963. Upon completion of the academy he served in the following districts and specialized divisions through out his career. They were the 7th, Special Operations, 8th, 7th, Communications Division, 4th, 2nd, 4th, Freight and Junk Section, and finally the 2nd district. During his career he was awarded 3 Exceptional Performance of Duty letters on 01/01/1966, 01/01/1968, and 06/19/1976; and 1 Chief's Letter of Commendation on 01/25/1977. All of the preceding awards were for police work above the call of duty. Officer McNabb retired on 01/22/1984 having served 20.06 years of faithful and dedicated service to the Saint Louis Metropolitan Police Department.

Officer McNabb requested that there be no wake or service.
GONE, BUT NOT FORGOTTEN
We stand on the shoulders of those who have gone before us

George A Buckner, III
Birth September 10, 1945
Death February 22, 2020 (aged 74)

Officer George A. Buckner III, DSN 6386, received his commission on 01/30/1968. Officer Buckner served in the following districts and specialized divisions throughout his career. They were the 7th, 6th, Records Section, 5th, Communications Division, and finally the 5th. Officer Buckner retired on a work-related disability on 11/07/1988, and served a total of 20.77 years of faithful and dedicated service to the Saint Louis Metropolitan Police Department.

No obituary was provided by the family or the funeral home.

Emil George Philipak
Birth July 11, 1931
Death January 16, 2020 (aged 88)

Detective Emil G. Philipak, DSN 2875, received his commission on 02/03/1958. Upon completion of the academy Detective Philipak served in the following districts and specialized divisions throughout his career. They were the 9th, Traffic / Control Section, 9th, Canine Section, Mobile Reserve Section, 4th, 2nd, Evidence Technician Unit (E.T.U.), and finally the Bureau of Investigation. Detective Philipak retired on 06/22/1985 having served 27.38 years of faithful and dedicated service to the Saint Louis Metropolitan Police Department. It should be noted that his son Officer Steven J. Philipak, DSN 1142, deceased, followed his father into the field of law enforcement.

Detective Philipak was a veteran of the United States Navy as a Radio Operator 3rd Class and served from October of 1952 to July of 1954.

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Baptized into the Hope of Christ’s Resurrection, born in St. Louis on July 11, 1931 and passed away Thursday, January 16, 2020 at the age of 88. Beloved father of Cheryl Philipak, Connie (Joe) Grimes and the late Steven Birth May 1, 1937 Philipak; loving grandfather of Brad (Claire) Grimes, Ted (Caitlin) Grimes and Matthew (Lauryn) Grimes; special great-grandfather of Lily, Brody and Aspyn Grimes.

Emil was a retired St. Louis Police Officer, a member of the St. Louis Police Officer’s Association, retired from Boeing, honorably discharged from the United States Navy and was very active at St. Gabriel Catholic Church.

Ormayne Armour Tompkins

Birth July 14, 1940
Death February 1, 2020 (aged 85)

Officer Ormayne A. Tompkins, DSN 8315, received his commission 02/20/1972. Upon completion of the academy Tompkins served in the 4th, 7th, 1st, 3rd, 2nd, Prisoner Processing, and finally the Bureau of Field Operations. Tompkins retired on 07/01/1988 and served a total of 26.36 years of faithful and dedicated service to the Saint Louis Metropolitan Police Department.

Officer Tompkins was predeceased by his wife Mary Lou (nee Roque) Tompkins, and a son Mr. Steven M. Tompkins. Officer Tompkins was the dearest son of the late Mr. & Mrs. Fred and Ora (nee Weems) Tompkins.

Lawrence Leroy “Larry” Williams

Birth May 1, 1937
Death January 23, 2020 (aged 82)

Sergeant Larry L. Williams, DSN 3260, started his career as a civilian working as a clerk in the Bureau of Services on 10/16/1958, followed by a short assignment at the 6th district station. He received his commission and started the police academy on 06/29/1959. During his career he served in the following specialized division and districts. They were the 10th, 8th, 7th, and the 9th district. On 08/01/1975 he was promoted to the command rank of Sergeant and was transferred to the Intelligence Division. His other assignments were in the 8th, and finally the 2nd district. During his career he received 2 department Awards of Excellence on 05/01/1973, and 08/27/1980. He was also the recipient of 1 Chief's Letter of Commendation on 04/25/1975. All of the preceding awards were for police work above the call of duty. Sergeant Williams retired on 09/08/1987 and served a total of 31.7 years of faithful and dedicated service to the Saint Louis Metropolitan Police Department.

Sergeant Williams returned to the Saint Louis Metropolitan Police Department as a civilian working in the Private Security Section on 02/20/1990 and left this position on 06/30/1990.

Sergeant Williams was a veteran of the United States Navy and served from 01/01/1955 to 04/01/1958 and achieved the rank of 3rd Class Petty Officer.

Lawrence Leroy Williams, Larry

Age 82, went to the Lord’s kingdom on January 23, 2020 surrounded by his family and loved ones. Larry is survived by his loving wife of 57 years, Rose Marie (nee McNally) Williams and his three children, Ellen Ann Williams, Jane Marie Williams and Edward Joseph (Kristin) Williams, and his siblings Donna (nee Williams) Ronald and Robert (Debbie) Carmack. Larry was a loving husband, father, grandfather, brother, uncle and friend to many. Larry served as a distinguished officer of the St. Louis and County Police Departments, and a veteran of the United States Navy. Larry was very proud of his service to his country and his community during his lifetime. Larry was even granted the honor of serving on the security detail of the Atlanta Olympics which is one of many pinnacle’s of his distinguished career in law enforcement. Larry was an avid story teller and always made others feel important and comfortable in his presence. Larry was loved by many friends and family and will be missed by all who had the opportunity to know him.

LT Frederick C. “Fred” Searcy, Sr

Birth April 11, 1934
Death January 16, 2020 (aged 85)

Lieutenant Frederick "Fred" C. Searcy Sr., DSN 2089, started his career at the Fleet Service Division on 11/07/1955 in a “Dummy Assignment” and remained there until he started the academy on 06/11/1956. Lieutenant Searcy served in the Bureau of Administration, 10th, 8th, Detail Pool, 8th, 5th, and the 7th. He was promoted to the command rank of Sergeant on 07/02/1978 and remained in the 7th. He was promoted once again to the rank of Lieutenant and was

William Joseph Hatcher

Birth June 15, 1934
Death December 13, 2019 (aged 85)

Officer William J. Hatcher, DSN 2862, received his commission on 02/03/1958. After the academy he held the following assignments during his career. They were the 10th, 2nd, Identification Section, and the Juvenile Division. Officer Hatcher retired on 03/17/1985 and served a total of 27.12 years of faithful and dedicated service to the Saint Louis Metropolitan Police Department.

Officer Hatcher was a veteran of the United States Army and achieved the rank of Specialist 4th Class.

William Joseph Hatcher, age 85, of Saint Charles, Missouri passed away on Friday, December 13, 2019. He was born in Saint Louis, Missouri on June 15, 1934 to Joseph and Gertrude Hatcher (nee Deister).

William was married to Alice Hatcher for 53 years. He was a police officer for the Saint Louis Police Department for 30 years.

William is survived by his wife, Alice Mae Hatcher; Children, Whitney (Tom) Cook, Hillary (Edward) Volz, and Andrew (Sheila) Hatcher; Grandchildren, Lauryn Cook, Justin Cook, Camryn Hatcher, Brooke Hatcher, Kathryn Volz, Andrew Joseph "AJ" Hatcher, Nichole Howlett, Dominick Howlett, and Jordan Howlett; Great-Grandson, Kaiden Abner; and Sister, Joyce Vierling; He will be dearly missed by many other family members and friends.

He was preceded in death by his mother, Gertrude Bienke; father, Joseph Hatcher, Jr.; and brother-In-Law, Jim Vierling.

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Police Officer for 35 years - Retired
First District Officer

(Cont. from pg. 11)
subsequently transferred to the 5th as a Watch Commander, followed by other assignments in the 7th and finally the Criminal Investigation Division (C.I.D.). Lieutenant Searcy was the recipient of 1 Chief's Letter of Commendation on 07/0/1965 for police work above the call of duty. Lieutenant Searcy retired on 04/10/1986 having served 30.74 years of faithful and dedicated service to the Saint Louis Metropolitan Police Department.

Lieutenant Searcy was a veteran of the United States Air Force and served during the Korean War and achieved the rank of Airman Basic which is an E-1.

Joseph John Kress

Birth October 10, 1940
Death January 2, 2020 (aged 79)

Officer Joseph J. Kress, DSN 5475, received his commission on 12/21/1964. Officer Kress served in the following districts and specialized divisions throughout his career. They were the 9th, Dummy Assignment, Bureau of Field Operation’s, 9th, Training Division, and finally the Public Affair’s Division. Officer Kress retired on 05/26/1986 and served a total of 20.52 years of faithful and dedicated service to the Saint Louis Metropolitan Police Department.

Officer Kress was selected, and became one of the first Police-School Liaison officers for the St. Louis Metropolitan Police Department. In October 1972, along with two other Juvenile officers Joe represented the St. Louis Police Department in attending the Prestigious Police-School Liaison Officers Clinic in Flint Michigan funded by the Mott Foundation and the Flint, Michigan Police Department. The Flint Michigan Police Department was the first police department to develop this highly successful program in the United States.

Joe along with two other officers were sent to study the methodology that had been developed for uniform application throughout the United States and then help develop this program within the St. Louis Police Department.

In short the concept was to place a plain clothes Police Officer in the St. Louis public high schools who would be used as a resource officer to develop a positive image of the police in the community by interacting with not only the students but also the surrounding school community. The assigned plain clothes officer was not there to serve as a school guard or as a disciplinarian. If there would be one word to define the concept it would be “Bonding” with the student, the school and the Community.

The plain clothes Police-School Liaison Officer program was funded by the Federal Law Enforcement Assistance program. The assigned officer worked four hours a day in the public school as a part-time job in addition to his regular eight hour a day shift. The officers were paid by the Federal Government for their four hour part-time work.

Officer Kress was a veteran of the United States Air Force and served in the Vietnam War. He achieved the rank of Airman 1st Class.

Dearest son of the late Mr. & Mrs. Joseph A. and Margaret E. (nee Schofield) Kress.

Robert Herman Taveggia

Birth April 1, 1922
Death November 22, 2019 (aged 97)

Officer Robert H. Taveggia, received his commission on 03/01/1946 and entered the academy. On 04/15/1946 he was sent to the 9th for his 1st uniformed assignment. Officer Taveggia was promoted to the command rank of Corporal on 01/01/1953. Officer Taveggia resigned his commission on 09/22/1955 to seek gainful employment in the private sector. Officer Taveggia served a total of 9 years, 6 months, and 21 days of faithful and dedicated service to the department. Officer Taveggia was a veteran of the United States Navy and served from 11/19/1941 to 12/17/1945 and achieved the rank of Boatswain’s Mate 1st Class.
On January 9, 2020 the SLMPD received the Law Enforcement Distinguished Service Award, presented at the Eagleton Federal Courthouse by US Attorney Jeff Jensen.


Not pictured and also receiving the award was Detective Scott McKelvey.

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Alternate Access to PRS Office

Site work preparatory to the construction of the MLS stadium has begun in earnest, and Market Street, which is the only arterial access point for the PRS office, is likely to be restricted for many weeks and months to come.

Access to the PRS parking lot normally goes through the Maggie O’Brien’s parking lot entrance. The restrictions on Market St. may result in that entrance being blocked during parts of any given day.

If the entrance to Maggie O’Brien’s is blocked, there are alternative access points to our parking lot from either 20th Street or 21st Street, although not all that convenient.

Along 20th Street, there is an alley running behind Maggie O’Brien’s which is sometimes available to gain access to their lot and from there, into the PRS lot; unfortunately, sometimes, the alley is blocked. Alternatively, along 21st Street, the entrance to the PRS parking lot is normally blocked with barricades; however, the barricades can be moved to make enough room for a vehicle to enter our lot.

We would suggest that if you’re driving to the PRS office, for the foreseeable future, you keep your cell phone handy. If the normal access point to our parking lot is blocked, call the office main number (314-241-0800) and we will find an alternate way to let you in the parking lot.

---

**In memory of the Saint Louis Police Officers who have made the Ultimate Sacrifice**

**DURING THE MONTH OF FEBRUARY**

William Hayes 1919
Edward Dwyer 1920
William Anderson 1924
Charles Claggett 1925
Frank Kohring 1926
William Sass 1926
Paul Meyer 1928
James Mobra 1937
Thomas Sullivan 1937
Melvin Wilmotth 1971
Stephen Jerabek 2007

**BE CAREFUL OUT THERE!**

---

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grtanner@aol.com
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- Former Assistant Circuit Attorney
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Small Acts of Kindness
by Chaplain John Fava

`Almost without thinking, I bent down and gave her a hug. She held onto me tightly. "You gave an old woman a little moment of joy," she said. "Thank you."`

I squeezed her hand and walked back to my cab. Behind me, a door shut. It was the sound of the closing of a life.

For the rest of that day, I could hardly talk. What if that woman had gotten an angry driver, or one who was impatient and just wanted to end his shift? What if I had refused to take the run, or had honked once and then had driven away? As I reminisce, I don’t think that I have done anything more important in my life.

We are conditioned to think that our lives revolve around great moments. But great moments often catch us unaware and are beautifully wrapped in what others may consider a small occurrence.

PEOPLE MAY NOT REMEMBER EXACTLY WHAT YOU DID, OR WHAT YOU SAID, BUT THEY WILL ALWAYS REMEMBER HOW YOU MADE THEM FEEL.

There are times when you officers are unaware of the positive impact that you have on people. Small acts of kindness go a long way, and I have witnessed this many times on my ride-alongs. Here are a few examples of what I am talking about.

The officer patiently listens to the caller or suspect tell his/her side of the story. The officer calms down a boisterous and agitated person by speaking gently and softly to the person. The officer reassures the victim that things will be all right. The officer gives words of encouragement to an offended person.

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Then the woman said, "I’m getting tired. Let’s go now." We drove in silence to the address she had given me. It was a low building, like a small convalescent home, with a driveway that passed under a portico. Two orderlies came out to the cab as soon as we pulled up. They were solicitous and intent, watching her every move. They must have been expecting her.

I opened the trunk and took the small suitcase to the door. As I returned to the cab, the woman was already seated in a wheelchair. Reaching into her purse, she asked, "How much do I owe you?"

"Nothing," I answered.

"You have to make a living," she said.

"I don’t have any family left," she continued in a soft voice. "The doctor says I don’t have very much time left."

I quietly reached over and shut off the meter."What route would you like me to take, ma’am?" I asked?

For the next two hours, we drove through the city. She showed me the building where she had once worked as an elevator operator. We drove through the neighborhood where she and her husband had lived when they were newlyweds. She had me pull up in front of a furniture warehouse that had once been a ballroom where she had gone dancing as a girl. Sometimes she would ask me to slow down in front of a particular building or a street corner and would quietly stare into space.

The officer gives a smile or a nod of encouragement to an offended person. The officer gets a candy bar or a package of snack reassure to a frightened person. The officer patiently listens to the caller or suspect tell his/her side of the story. The officer calms down a boisterous and agitated person by speaking gently and softly to the person. The officer reassures the victim that things will be all right. The officer gives words of encouragement to an offended person.

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Adam McNutt, President
Ted Hyla, Vice President (retired Major, St. Louis County PD)

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When our Business Manager walked into the Hall on March 10, the siren on our alarm system was beeping like nobody’s business.

It seems, one of our staff members was working on a damaged area on the ceiling where we took on some water due to a leaking roof. He tried to move the ceiling panel that held the smoke detector, when the fire alarm went off.

No big deal.

We called the alarm company and told them it was an accidental set-off and when the Fire Department arrived seconds later, we explained to them it was a false alarm.

Here’s the ironic part, our Business Manager had spent the entire morning at the Eastern District of the Missouri Court of Appeals listening to lawyers for the St. Louis Police Officers Association and the Firefighters Union arguing on opposite sides of a court case that was by no means, a false alarm.

To be clear, the SLPOA is not suing the Local 73, the union for St. Louis Firefighters. We sued the City a good three-and-a-half years ago over the pay parity law in the St. Louis City Charter.

The law, we would argue, is plainly unconstitutional. Our members have a State Constitutional right to bargain collectively through a representative of their own choosing. Parity, requires that our union bargain for raises for both the cops we represent and the firefighters we don’t because, firefighters’ salaries are tied to police salaries in this one-way parity scheme. Our hands are tied at the bargaining table, our members send us to the table to get the best package for them minus what the City is required by law to give firefighters.

It’s not fair. If we had one way parity with the firefighters, you better believe they would be in court making the same arguments our attorney did.

And, more importantly, as our attorney argued so succinctly, the Missouri Supreme Court made it very clear when parity was challenged shortly after it was enacted, that firefighters employed by the City of St. Louis had pay parity only with police officers employed by the Board of Police Commissioners appointed by the Missouri Governor.

Parity should never have been enforced because it is an unconstitutional impediment to collective bargaining but even if it weren’t, it should have ceased to be enforced when the City gained local control and no longer had to tie the firefighter salaries set by the Board of Aldermen to the police salaries set by the State Legislature. If the Board of Aldermen wants to pay cops and firefighters the same amount or different amounts, they can do so now that they have local control. An obsolete law shouldn’t dictate pay, city elected officials should.

We’ve all got a lot of friends in the fire service and, in particular, on the City Fire Department. We work side-by-side with them everyday and you’d risk your life to defend them. And, they would do the same for you. This isn’t about our comrades at the Fire Department, it is about doing what’s fair and lawful.

Parity is neither.

Firefighters have a terribly difficult job but, people rarely turn the sort of deadly violence against them that they do the police. And, the media and politicians don’t perpetuate false attacks against firefighters that make it difficult to do their jobs and impossible to recruit sufficient applicants. The Fire Department has very little difficulty hiring staff (except for paramedics and EMT’s who aren’t covered by parity anyway).

Firefighters have better schedules and make tons of scheduled overtime as part of their 24-hour shifts. If a cop and a firefighter only work their regular shifts, the firefighter takes home far more money.

Parity is another word for equality. There is nothing equal about the way cops and firefighters are treated in the City. And, there is nothing equal about the retention and recruiting in the two jobs.

We have a staffing emergency in the Police Department. We fall farther behind every day. All our Board wanted when they authorized this lawsuit was a chance at true equality at the bargaining table.

A chance for true parity.
## March 2020

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