



MNPD NEWSLINE

THE OFFICIAL EMPLOYEE NEWSLETTER OF THE MNPD

May 15, 2019

News from the Chief



As National Peace Officers' Memorial Day draws to a close, I ask that you all join me in pausing to remember the officers of our department who lost their lives in service to Nashville's families. Twelve of my MNPD colleagues have died in the line of duty during my tenure with this department. I miss them all.

Our annual memorial service, sponsored by the Fraternal Order of Police, was last Thursday at noon. I want to share with you my remarks at that service:

Good afternoon and thank you for being with us. Thank you to President Smallwood and the Fraternal Order of Police for inviting me here today.

A special thank you to the congregation and leadership of First Baptist Church for being such gracious hosts.

I want to recognize my friend Jeff Long, Tennessee's Commissioner of Safety & Homeland Security. Jeff, I know that your heart is heavy with the passing of Tennessee Highway Patrol Trooper Matthew Gatti. Trooper Gatti was killed earlier this week while responding to a call for service. His funeral is Monday afternoon in Jackson. Please know that our condolences are with you.

A benefit, maybe the only benefit, of my misspent youth is my present curiosity about things I should have learned in high school and college, had I paid attention. There are poems I remember reading, all the while missing their deep meaning and impact. The historical greatness of our nation's leaders I am just now discovering.

There is the fascination I now have with words. Where do words come from? How does a word get so commonplace that we overlook its origin?

Earlier this week, the word 'memorial' caught my attention. That is the word that brought us here today. When I looked at my calendar, and saw the words "Fraternal Order of Police Memorial," I was reminded that today was the day we would all meet here at the First Baptist Church to pay tribute to the men and women who lost their lives in service of this City.

But it was the word 'memorial' that stuck in my mind. Where did it come from? What does it mean? I think you know, I had to find out.

Turns out, it comes from the Latin word 'mem', meaning mind or memory. Other words sharing this Latin root are commemorate, memorize, and remember. The dictionary tells us that a memorial is something designed to remind and to preserve the memory of a person. Something to make one remember.

The dictionary also said that, sometimes, there will be food to eat after the memorial. I smiled when I saw the word sometimes? I assure you, when the FOP has a ceremony, there will always be food.

Memorials are important to us. So important that, in 1971, the United States Congress created a national holiday to honor those men and women who lost their lives in service to this country. That day, Memorial Day, is celebrated on the last Monday of May, just a few days from now.

Actually, for many decades before 1971, an unofficial holiday existed. It was called Decoration Day. It was a day when extended family members would meet at the family cemetery. Graves would be tidied up. Tombstones would be straightened. When all was right, the graves would be decorated with fresh flowers. That made it a Decoration Day.

Then, the best part, at least for us kids, there was the picnic. All the food would be laid out and, if no one was watching, we could get 2, or maybe 3, deserts.

Thankfully, we are a people who know the importance of memorials. We are a nation and a city that understands the importance of those who sacrificed their lives for us. So we are here today, not just to pay tribute to these men and women, but to remember who they were as persons. To recall their uniqueness. Those special qualities they possessed that made them different than anyone else in the world. To remember how they impacted our own lives. And yes, to bring to the surface, yet again, that sadness, that grief, we felt so deeply at the time they left us.

I am told that we should acknowledge our grief. It is certainly with us today. Standing here, I can see it in the air. I think grief is a good thing. Grief makes us more aware of our own need to live the life that those we have lost would be proud of.

Grief makes us more aware how fortunate we are to have each other. To know that there are others who care about us. To know that we have the ability to care about each other.

If the emotion of grief was not a good thing, we would not have been given the ability to experience it.

The loss of these men and women is tragic and all of us wish they were still with us. But our lives are so much richer for having known them for the short time they were with us.

When researching the word 'memorial', I came across a poem that I had probably read at some time in school. But certainly, at that time, I did not take into account the message being conveyed. The poem is titled, In Memoriam. It was written in 1849 by Alfred, Lord Tennyson. Now, when I said Lord Tennyson's name, many of you gave a knowing nod because you know that he was one of the most renowned poets of the 19th century. Some of you gave me a look that said, "It seems like I have heard of him, but I don't know where."

Now I know who sat in the front of the classroom and who sat in the back of the classroom with me.

The poem is quite lengthy and I'll not read it all. But, whether you sat in the front of the classroom or in the back with me, you know, by heart, 2 lines of this poem.

*Tis better to have loved and lost
Than never to have loved at all.*

Most times that quotation is used in describing a romantic relationship that did not work out. But actually, this poem was written by Lord Tennyson in remembrance of his dear friend, Arthur Henry Hallam, who died suddenly of a brain hemorrhage.

Can we not say that about each of the men and women we honor today? Even though we grieve for them, is it not better that we had them for a short while than to never have had the honor of knowing them? If we had never have known them we would have never known how special they were. Our lives would not be complete except for the short time we spent with them.

I know that grief is still there, but I hope you can place alongside it the happy memories. A question best left to the experts is how we manage that grief, knowing that may be key to our wellbeing.

Maybe we don't try to eliminate it. Maybe it's best just to mix it in with the happy memories. I am convinced that we have space for both.

I suspect many of you have watched the TV series, 'The Wire'. It is very entertaining. It is also very insightful. The script, written by renowned author David Simon, contains many lessons in life.

As one of the characters, Reginal, is giving a testimonial, he made the statement, "Holding on to grief is OK." Wondering why it would be OK to hold on to grief, I replayed that segment. I had missed the most important part of his statement.

"Holding on to grief is OK, so long as you make room for other things too."

So long as you make room for other things too.

I am so glad that you have made room for other things too. To be here today. To remember these men and women. To celebrate their lives. And, to give us a place to start the remainder of our own lives.

So today is our Memorial Day and it is also our Decoration Day. The front of this room is decorated with pictures of the men and women we are here to salute. Could anything be more beautiful?

And, the Fraternal Order of Police has prepared an elaborate picnic for you to enjoy.

And, since today is special, I think it's ok to have 2 deserts.

Thank you for being with us today.

On a personal note, thank you for your condolences on Sunday's passing of my father, Bobby Anderson. He was 92, and lived a full life.



Retired Chiefs Joe Casey and Emmett Turner joined Chief Anderson at the annual memorial service.

Tennessee Memorial Service

Esther Connell, mother of MNPDP Officer Eric Mumaw who drowned while attempting to save a suicidal woman on February 2, 2017, arrives for the Tennessee memorial service on May 10th honoring law enforcement members killed in the line of duty.



Officer Michael Petrina

The MNPD on May 10th remembered Officer Michael Petrina who was killed in service to our city on that date five years ago. He was assisting in a crash investigation on I-65 near Brentwood when he was struck and fatally injured by a motorhome pulling a trailer.

These officers, led by Officer Petrina's classmate Austin Bass, took part in a special workout Friday morning at the Training Academy designed to honor Officer Petrina's legacy.



Drill and Ceremony Team

We are proud of our defending National Champion Drill and Ceremony Team, which competed Tuesday during National Police Week in Washington D.C. Our team finished in 2nd place this year.



The Drill and Ceremony Team also presented the colors at the Law Enforcement Officers Memorial as the names of Tennessee officers killed in the line of duty in 2018 were read.



Prior to departing for Washington, students at I.T. Creswell Arts Magnet Middle School provided the perfect sendoff on May 7th.



Family Safety Center

In recognition of National Police Appreciation Week Family Safety Center personnel hosted a breakfast Monday morning.



11th Annual Shoney's 5K Family Fun Run & Festival is this Saturday

Saturday morning's forecast could not be better for the 11th Annual Shoney's 5K Family Fun Run & Festival benefiting the Nashville Police Support Fund, a part of the Community Foundation of Middle Tennessee. Please make plans to join your colleagues in Nissan Stadium's Lot T. Registration starts at 7 a.m. The 5K begins at 8 a.m. from the Seigenthaler Pedestrian Bridge. Tennessee Titans starting center Ben Jones will be the official starter. The 48 police officer trainees in Session 87 will be jogging the 5K in formation. All are welcome to fall in behind them, or walk the 5K at your leisure. A full Shoney's breakfast will be served in Lot T at the conclusion of the race.

All proceeds from this event benefit college scholarships for officers working to complete college undergraduate and master's degrees. Shoney's owner David Davoudpour matches all funds raised dollar for dollar. You can register in advance by logging onto www.shoneys.com/5k-fun-run-festival/



Precinct News

The North Precinct community engagement team joined Mayor David Briley for his spring clean event. More than 600 volunteers, including MNPS students, met Mayor Briley at Pearl-Cohn High School for a day of service in North Nashville.



State Senator Brenda Gilmore and the Red Hat Society honored North Precinct's community engagement team for outstanding community outreach.



East Precinct personnel, including Commander David Imhof and School Resource Sergeant Bonita Blue, participated in Walk to School Day!



A ceremony on May 8th was held in appreciation of Madison Precinct Officer Jesse Cox who sustained multiple injuries when his patrol car was struck by an impaired hit and run driver in 2017. After months of grueling rehabilitation, Officer Cox returned to work.



Officer Cox (second from left) is joined by family and Madison Precinct Commander Sebastian Gourdin.

Outstanding, coordinated police work on May 9th led to the arrest of 17-year-old Isiah Green who is accused of robbing a woman inside the U.S. Post Office at 3908 Lebanon Pike.

The victim reported that at 7 p.m. two young men took her wallet at gunpoint and then fled on foot toward Jacksonian Drive.

Hermitage Precinct Officers quickly responded and soon spotted two individuals who matched the suspect description on Plantation Drive near Bonnahill Drive. They both fled into a wooded area. Canine Officer Braden Gant and his partner Nash began a track. With the assistance of a police helicopter, Green was located lying on the ground, hiding in thick brush. Green surrendered to Officer Gant and Nash.

The victim positively identified Green. Detectives are pursuing leads to identify the second suspect.

Green is charged in Juvenile Court with aggravated robbery.

Many thanks to the folks at the Walmart Neighborhood Market at Nippers Corner who donated snacks and other goodies to thank South Precinct officers for their service.



South Precinct Officer Shelby Hughes enjoyed meeting with members of the Pepper Ridge Neighborhood Watch group.



South Precinct Officer Stephen Soule attends Career Day at Antioch Middle School. Students were very interested in learning more about police work.



Juvenile Crime Task Force

A 14-year-old who was supposed to have been on strict home detention as the result of his arrest for stealing a MacBook Pro computer was among six teens arrested on May 7th for traveling in a stolen Ford Edge SUV with semi-automatic pistols.

Juvenile Crime Task Force officers spotted the stolen vehicle traveling on Gallatin Pike. They followed from a distance while devising a plan to stop the SUV. The 13-year-old driver of the Edge refused to pull over for an officer's blue lights on Neill Avenue. Spike strips were deployed, causing the 13-year-old to slow down and eventually stop at the dead end of S. 6th Street near Fatherland Street. Four of the teens fled and were quickly apprehended. Two others remained with the vehicle, in which officers found the two loaded pistols.

The six teenagers, three 13-year-olds, two 14-year-olds, and one 15-year-old, are all charged with auto theft and two counts each of unlawful gun possession by a juvenile.

Officers attempted to make contact with the 14-year-old's mother to determine why he was not abiding by the home detention rules. She could not be located.

The 2013 Ford Edge was stolen from the 300 block of Broadway after its owner left it running as he ran into a business.

Juvenile Crime Task Force officers apprehended three young men responsible for a series of attempted robberies and recovered a carjacked vehicle used in the crime spree.

Events began to unfold on May 3rd at 5 p.m. when officers responded to the Sheffield Heights Apartments, 700 Airways Circle. A woman reported that she had pulled into the parking lot when two young men approached her. One indicated he had a gun under his shirt and demanded her car keys. They fled in her black BMW 320 sedan toward Elm Hill Pike.

Three attempted robberies involving similar suspect/vehicle descriptions occurred later Friday night beginning at 9:10 p.m. A man was sitting on a friend's patio in the 3900 block of Apache Trail when he was approached by two young men who demanded money. When he told them he didn't have any, but offered his phone instead, the victim was punched in the face. The suspects fled empty handed.

Ten minutes later, a gunman approached three women sitting in a vehicle in the parking lot of Advanced Financial, 396 Tusculum Road. He demanded money at gunpoint. After one of the women screamed, the suspect fled without taking anything.

At 9:35 p.m., two suspects entered Discount Tobacco & Beer, 1997 Nolensville Pike, and demanded money at gunpoint. When the cashier was unable to open the register, a second employee approached and was pistol whipped by the gunman. As both suspects fled, a shot was fired. No one was struck.

At 9:45 p.m. Juvenile Crime Task Force Officers located the suspect BMW unoccupied in the 600 block of West Iris Drive. Four suspects were seen climbing a fence nearby. They were taken into custody after a foot pursuit.

During interviews, Adam Mohamed, 17, and Sakariy Mohamed, 16, both admitted their involvement in the carjacking. They are each charged in Juvenile Court with aggravated robbery.

Jamal Abdillahi, 19, admitted to his involvement in the Discount Tobacco & Beer robbery. He is charged with three counts of attempted aggravated robbery, vehicle theft, evading arrest, and contributing to the delinquency of a minor. He is being held in lieu of \$113,000 bond.

The fourth suspect, Amir Adam, 19, is charged with vehicle theft, evading arrest, and contributing to the delinquency of a minor. He is free on \$3,500 bond. At the time of his arrest, Adam was free on \$6,500 bond for his March 18th arrest for unlawful drug and handgun possession.

Crime Lab & West Precinct

MNPD Laboratory analysis of evidence from the crime scene led to the identification of Gerry Neil Weatherby as a suspect in the July 2018 homicide of Daniel Shields, 30, inside Shields' 5100 Delaware Avenue home.

Weatherby, 45, is in the Metro Jail on charges of first-degree murder and especially aggravated kidnapping. Weatherby was brought to Nashville from Waynesboro following his arrest Tuesday by deputies from the Wayne County Sheriff's Office. Information developed by the U.S. Marshal's Fugitive Task Force led to Weatherby's apprehension. The sealed murder indictment naming him was returned by the Davidson County grand jury in March.

Officers conducting a welfare check found Shields' decomposing body inside his bloody apartment last July 10th. Shields' employer called police after not seeing him for several days. West Precinct detectives subsequently determined that Shields was last seen at 9:30 p.m. on July 4th leaving the Trax bar on Ensley Boulevard. Shields' missing SUV was located at a South Nashville motel on the morning of July 12th. Shields' death was attributed to "multimodality trauma" and ruled a homicide by the Medical Examiner.

Weatherby has convictions in Nashville for attempted aggravated robbery, theft, prostitution, and criminal impersonation, and in Wayne County for theft.

Weatherby's bond is set at \$150,000.

Specialized Investigations Division

Information developed by the MNPD Gang Unit concerning alleged heroin sales led to the arrest of a couple during the execution of a search warrant at their 2842 Creekbend Drive residence.

A police operative twice purchased heroin from Curtis Bobo, 49. He and his wife Valerie Bobo, 51, allegedly flushed narcotics in an upstairs bathroom before officers could make entry through a locked bedroom door.

Seized were two guns (a rifle & semi-automatic pistol), 19 grams of marijuana, and \$627 cash.

Fraud Unit detectives responded to the house after a garage "store" full of counterfeit merchandise was located. Recovered were more than 200 articles of fake Gucci, Louis Vuitton, and Dolce & Gabbana hand bags, shoes, belts, and sunglasses. Charges are pending in relation to the fraud case.

At present, Curtis Bobo is charged with possession of a gun in the commission of a dangerous felony, possession of heroin for resale, marijuana possession and unlawful possession of drug paraphernalia. Valerie Bobo is charged with evidence tampering.



Garage "store"

Months of investigation by Specialized Investigations Division narcotics detectives led to the May 3rd arrest of Nashvillian Christopher Floyd, 31, on a second-degree murder indictment for the December 23, 2017 drug overdose death of Sara Elizabeth Roberts, 33, at her E. Thompson Lane home.

The Medical Examiner determined that Roberts died of acute drug toxicity from heroin, fentanyl, and alcohol. The investigation led to the identification of Floyd as the man detectives allege provided the heroin/fentanyl to Roberts.

Floyd was taken into custody without incident at his Batavia Street home.

Domestic Violence Division

Family Safety Center, Family Intervention Program, Sex Crimes Unit, and Domestic Violence Division personnel attended the Domestic Violence Homicide Memorial ceremony held in the Family Safety Center courtyard.



Behavioral Health Services Division

Instructors with the Indianapolis Police Department, Office of Professional Development and Wellness (OPDW) provided two full days of training on their program for Command Staff and Peer Supporters. The OPDW and MNPD have both been recognized by the Department of Justice as a model officer wellness program.



Retirement Celebration

Commander Marlene Pardue celebrated 30 years of service



Chief Anderson expressed his gratitude to retiring West Precinct Commander Marlene Pardue for her service.

School Crossing Guard Sheryn Temple celebrated 41 years of service



Deputy Chief Brian Johnson presented Temple with a commemorative plaque.

Congratulations:



Officer Ronald Raynore and his wife, Danielle Raynore, welcomed their son, Lucas Parker Raynore, on April 9th.

Officer Jonathan Hadley and his wife, Tiffany Hadley, welcomed their daughter, Abigail Nicole Hadley, on April 29th.

Condolences:

Retired Sergeant Lucy Dibella Wilson, who served from 1977 until her retirement in 1995, passed away on May 2nd.

Eleanor Ann Dorgan, the mother of Linda Sylvester, Youth Services Division, grandmother of Mylinda Davis, Human Resources, and great grandmother of Alyssa Parrott, Court Appearance, passed away on May 3rd.

Hunter Augustus Sneed, the son of Lieutenant Bill Sneed, passed away on May 4th.

Bobby Anderson, the father of Chief Steve Anderson, passed away on May 12th.