

# Howard County Police Retired Officers' Association



## Briefing Notes



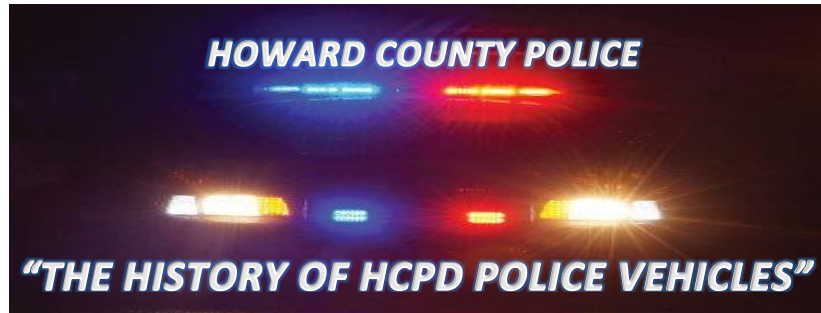
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The Newsletter for the HCPROA

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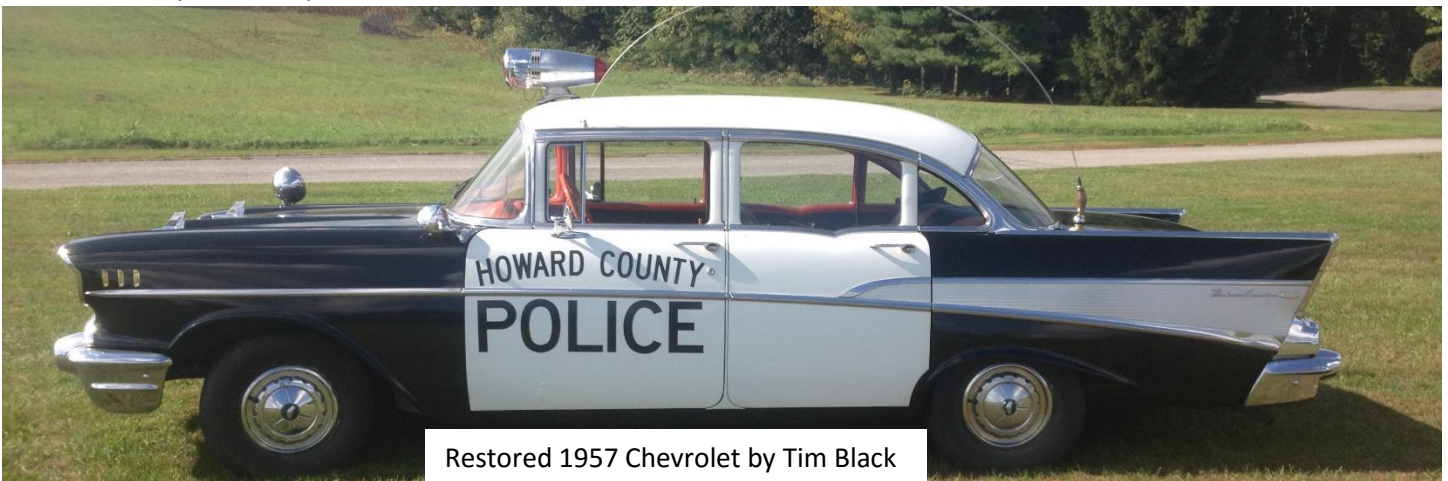


### A PICTURAL ANTHOLOGY

Over the past hundred years the change in police vehicles has truly been an evolution. In the early 1800's, police officers were primarily on foot in large cities, while those in rural and western town, known as marshals or sheriffs, rode horses. The paddy wagon was truly a horse drawn wagon and communication was by means of a whistle.

In the 1900's, as Ford and other automotive companies formed, police departments slowly but surely began to use vehicles as a means of transport, but most departments still utilized the foot patrol officers and a device referred to a "Call Box" emerged. These boxes were scattered throughout an officer's foot patrol, and each officer had a key to access the box. Communication and transportation was still very limited.

As those first police vehicles emerged, policing took on another face. Officers could cover more area and respond quicker to those in need. One could argue that police cars alienated officers from the public, but the benefits far outweighed the negative aspects. Throughout the following pages, the evolution of the police cruiser is depicted in the Howard County Police Department.



Restored 1957 Chevrolet by Tim Black

*Thanksgiving Edition*

*Editorial – "A Time for Thanks"*

*Tribute to Captain G. E. Wessel*

*"Retirees Beat"*

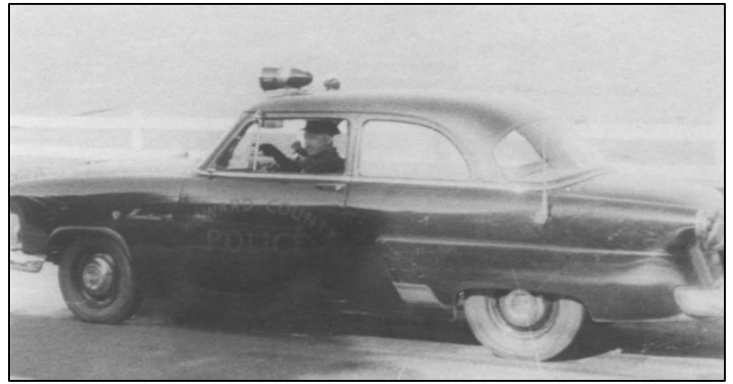
*"Thank You for Your Service"*

*HCPROA 2015 Donations*

## *“The Black and Whites”*

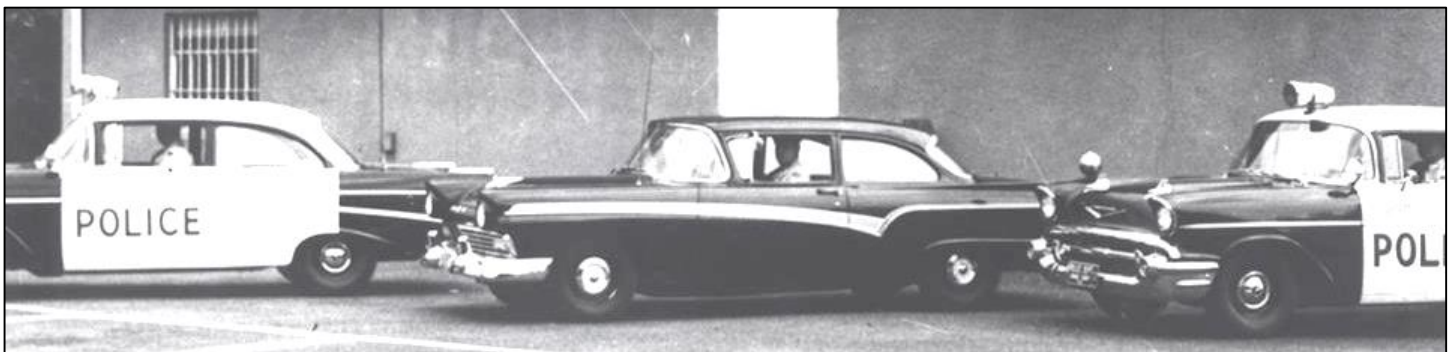
### *1952 Ford*

Chief Russel Moxley in uniform paroling the streets of Howard County during the early 1950's.



### *1956 Ford*

This year the Howard County Police Department joined other agencies in the nation and adopted the “Black and White” color combination for police cars. This combination is still use by many departments in the country.



In 1957, this was our entire fleet of police cars, one Ford and two Chevrolets. Officers shared these cars on all three shifts so they ran 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Prior to the implementation of the "take-home" car program in the 1980s, the entire fleet, or the majority of patrol cars needed to be replaced each year due to high mileage and maintenance issues.

This was the entire fleet of police cars in 1961. The officers are, from left: Sgt. Russell Harrison; Acting Chief, Lt. Harry Harrison; and Officer (and future Chief) Bob Mathews. Note: The change in HCPD door emblem.





## *Around the corner to Fels Lane*



### **1961 Dodge Station Wagon**

Officer Bob Mathews in a 1961 Dodge in front of HCPD Headquarters on Main Street, Ellicott City, showing off the new eagle style logo. Officer Mathews started in 1959, advanced through the ranks and became Chief of Police in 1975. This photo was actually taken by Retired Sergeant Larry Corum who states, “Bob wouldn’t take the picture with me in the car, so I took one of him. Who knew it would show up more than fifty years later.”

### **1965 Ford**

“Black and White.” This photo was taken during a driver training session at the Dorsey Speedway in Elkridge. This was not the only time officers visited the speedway. Many calls were received for disturbances at that location.



### **1967 Plymouth**

This model cruiser marks the last of the police vehicles that carried the single overhead light mechanism with separate speaker. If you look closely at the driver, the “uniform of the day” consisted of a helmet not hat

### **1971 Ford**

Keeping with the “Black and White,” this 1971 Ford was the first model to have the new fleet equipped with newly formed light bars.



## *"The Baby Blues"*



### **1973 Ford Torino**

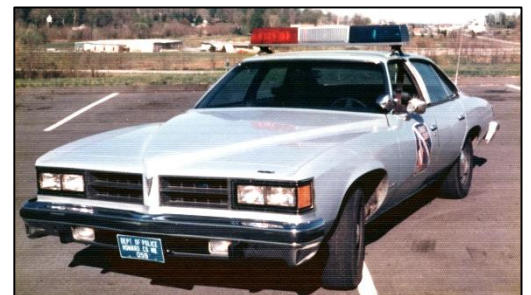
The color scheme changes to powder blue and sets a trend for the next decade. This Torino in no way had the pickup and go as it's TV "Starsky and Hutch" sibling.



### **1975 Ford Torino** "Starsky and Hutch" TV Model

### **1974 Dodge Coronet**

This cruiser had much more pickup and go than its predecessor.



### **1976 Pontiac Lemans**

This was the first cruiser to be topped with the new style light bar, and the first HCPD cruiser to display the new HCPD logo.



### **1978 Ford LTD II**

The cruiser lacked acceleration, but had a good top end speed.



### **1979 Chevrolet Malibu**

For three years, 1979, 1980, and 1981, Chevrolet Malibu's were purchased. The 1979 had the larger engine. During these years the department implemented the Personal Vehicle Saturation Program. Retired Pfc. Terry "50" Chaney was the first officer assigned to have a PVSP vehicle. Additionally, each vehicle was equipped with a "Jerk and Run" radio, allowing all officers to have a portable radio while on patrol.



### **1979 Prisoner Van**

This prisoner van was a regular van, but the first seat was reversed and there was just a screen between the prisoners and driver. A box-van type of wagon was placed in service in the late 1980s.



# White, Striped, and Accreditation

## 1983 Chevrolet Impala

This cruiser had good performance, but the uncomfortable bucket seats caused one to have a long shift ending with backaches.



## 1985 Ford Crown Victoria

HCPD begins Flip/Flop between Ford and Chevrolet.



## 1991 Chevrolet Caprice

The dawn of a new design, the horizontal double stripe from front to rear.



## 1997 Ford Crown Victoria

The arrival of the new Crown Victoria's were applauded by the troops. Comfortable and good performance. This entire new fleet of vehicles all displayed the emblem of the **Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies, Inc. (CALEA)**



This above photo shows some of the specialized support units and vehicles that supplement patrol operations: Mobile Command Post, cadets, school resource officers, motorcycle unit, tactical officers, bicycle patrols, prisoner transport, and Volunteer Auxiliary unit. The photo is undated but may be early 1997, taken on the parking lot of the Southern District station.

## 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of HCPD Vehicles

Retired Officer Tim Black starting restoring this 1957 Chevrolet to simulate the 1957 Chevrolet patrol car actually used by HCPD. The uniform that he is wearing in the photo to the right is identical to the uniform worn by officers in 1957. During the anniversary celebration, each of the chiefs of police had an opportunity to ride in the restored vehicle.



Retired Officer Al Hafner, noted HCPD historian and photographer, states, "These are two shots of car #50. The

same decals were applied to a white car for a very short time and everyone was encouraged to vote on which one they liked best. The black car won. Actually the winner was a classic two-tone black & white (like the '57 Chevy), but the administration did not want us to look like LAPD.

The silver car (2008 Ford) was used as a sample of a possible paint change, but obviously it was not adopted for the fleet. A silver Dodge was in service for a short while, but was totaled after being T-boned by a DWI. We still have 2 silver SUVs as K-9 vehicles.

"The chiefs are posed in front of Tim Black's '57 Chevy because that was parked in the little plaza in front of the county office building. I took the photos and don't remember using car #50 because it was not parked in the plaza and everyone wanted pictures of the '57. It was taken 29 Jan 2002, the day we had our 50th anniversary celebration.



*The Chiefs*

Left to right: Chiefs Robert O. Mathews, James Robey, Paul Rappaport, Russell Moxley, Frederick Chaney, and Wayne Livesay. The Chiefs are standing in front of a 1957 Chevrolet, black and white, police vehicle. Retire Sergeant Tim Black restored the vehicle solely for the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Howard County Police Department. This vehicle, pictured on page 1 of this publication, has been use on many occasions for public/community relation activities.



## "The New Age"

"The New Age"



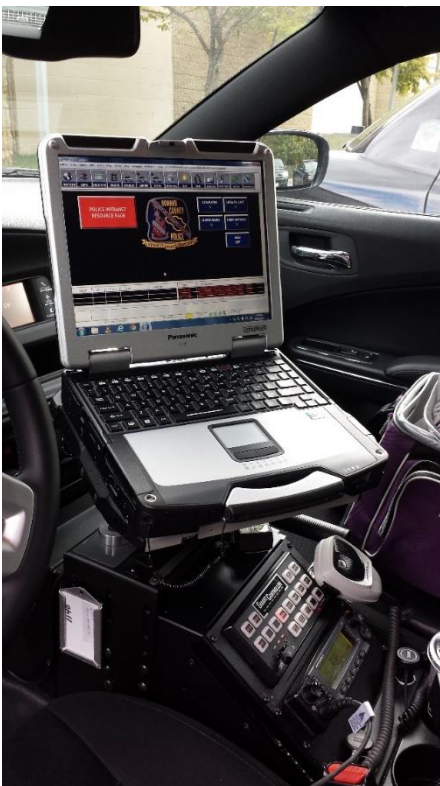
2004 Ford Crown Victoria – The first year the entire fleet was converted to black.



2014 Dodge Charger with the new side decor



2015 Ford w/ newly designed strobe lights in side view mirrors and in the front grill.



### *Mobile Data Computer*

Remember the days of 10-27, 28, 29 and Maryland State Central record checks. Remember waiting hours or to the end of shift for a response. Sometimes the response was via Teletype machine. Not explaining what the TTY was, and simply stating it was one of the predecessors of the Mobile Date Computer as seen left and above. Computers in patrol cars have given officers the ability to access more information than ever before. This photo was taken during a press conference announcing the installation of the first MDC (Mobile Data Computer) in 1999, paid for with assets forfeiture from drug seizures. Officers are now afforded the everyday luxury of receiving information in very short periods of time. Additionally officers are able to complete incident reports and not carry stacks of paper, trying to complete reports before the end of shift. For someone who may not be used to this, they might feel a little confined, or claustrophobic. The question is, "How does a person stretch? After all, it is a long time in a car."



*The Two Wheelers*



Motorcycles, a traditionally used vehicle by police departments, have a variety of uses. (above)

The bicycle are used in parks and in areas not accessible to police cars where they are mounted to the rear of patrol cars. This provides ready access to officers needing a different mode of transport. (left)

The new electric motorcycle purchased in 2015 primary for use on park property. (right)



*Mobile  
Communication  
Command  
Center*



In 1976, Paul Hajek and others obtained an out-of-service ambulance from HCFD and converted into the first Mobile Communications Command (left). Today's replacement, not only dwarfs its predecessor, but is equipped with the most updated communications equipment (right).



2014 Ford SUV

### *The Future*

Captain Steve Lampe, Commander Management Services Bureau, reports that the Department has approximately 560 marked police vehicles to date. Of that number approximately 289 are assigned to individual officers as personal take home cars. There are about 100 SUV's (photo left) in the entire fleet. Lampe says, "The SUV's have proven to have better performance, better utility, and meet the needs of officers and the department more than the standard four door sedan. The cost of the two different types of vehicles is approximately the same, fully equipped.

Lampe further states' "There will be some additional changes in the next fleet to be ordered. They will be Fords, but the majority of the order will be SUV's.

**Note:** With the exception of the 1957 restored vehicle, all other cars pictured above were or are actual HCPD police vehicles. However not all of HCPD vehicles are pictured. The purpose of this depiction was to show the progression and change of the vehicles over the years. If pertinent information was not included, it was unintentional.



*Tribute to:  
Captain G. Edward Wessel*

*HCPROA Thanks the Howard County  
Business Community*

When highlighting the various vehicle of HCPD, it would certainly be remiss not to mention the contributions and the dedication of Captain G. Edward Wessel. Edward Wessel was the architect of the PSVP (take home car program). He spent several years of his career convincing the Command Staff, the County Executive and the County Council, that the take home car program would be beneficial to the citizens of Howard County, the Department, and each officer that had a privilege to be assigned a take home police vehicle. Finally, a 1980 Chevrolet Malibu was assigned to be the personal patrol vehicle of Pfc. Terry Chaney. Within the next year and as new vehicles were delivered, other officers were assigned vehicles until practically every officer residing in Howard County, who had completed his/her probationary period, was assigned their own vehicle. This undoubtedly one of the highlights of Captain Wessel's career.



One can only imagine the amazement that Captain Wessel would have on his face today. He was not a person who would hide his emotions. He did show disappointment, but more so displayed his approval, satisfaction, and elation when something favorable occurred under his watch or command. Today, we can be assured that Captain Edward Wessel is looking down from above, smiling over the fleet of black patrol vehicles at Northern and Southern Districts. Captain G. Edward Wessel passed away on February 1, 1988

During this past year the Executive Board of the HCPROA has adopted the practice of giving door prizes and conducting raffles during the general meetings and events. These door prizes and items for raffle have been donated by numerous businesses of the County. HCPD veteran Skip Beall, HCPROA Fund Raising Chairperson, has compiled a very lengthy list of businesses and actively contacts each requesting their support for the Association. Many have donated items or services for these door prizes and raffles.

The Executive Board would like to thank the below list businesses for their generosity and support. It's this type of cooperation and joint efforts of individuals, organizations, and businesses that bring success to community projects and programs.



*(Left) Tom Horstkamp, representing Dan Gough for TV donation, being presented a plaque of appreciation at the Bull and Oyster Roast.*

*(Right) A very special thanks to PLAYERS BAR AND GRILL, Woodstock, MD for donating their facility for meetings. Photo of Frank Dawson and Simon, the owner.*



*"They are in good condition and are properly equipped," states Capt. Wessel. This 1974 photo on the back lot of the old Fels Lane police station shows Sgt. Ed Wessel inspecting the car assigned to Officer Earl Rush.*

- |                           |                       |
|---------------------------|-----------------------|
| Bare Bones                | Ellicott City Brewery |
| Clyde's of Columbia       | Kings Contrivance     |
| Tomato Place              | Kelly's Liquors       |
| Tobys                     | Wilhide's Florist     |
| MD LIVE Casino            | Mission Bar-B-Q       |
| Frederick Keys            | Baldwin Station       |
| Smokin' Hot Bar and Grill | Safeway Foods         |
| Pizza Hut                 | Martins               |
| Chick Fil-A               | Glock USA             |
| James Lilley - Author     | Wine Bin              |

Terri Rinkinen

**Special Thanks  
To  
Daniel Gough**

## *“A Time for Thanks”*

### Editorial

As we approach the holiday season, people often remember, reminisce, and recall the many things in life which they are grateful. Whether they attribute these occurrences to God or others, we typically are very happy and thankful that things happened the way they did. One may often remember statements made by their parents, times with siblings, the holidays, and the early years with their children. People tend not to dwell on the bad times, and if they happen to slip into ones thoughts, they are quickly dismissed.

Some people may remember the event that set many things in motion. The event that inspired you to become a police officer. You probably are truly thankful that this one moment occurred. It may have been an incident that occurred during childhood, or the influence of a television program, or maybe a brief conversation with a police officer. If you were hired prior to 1974, you still might not understand the purpose of the question, “Describe the Chinese/Soviet relationship?” Upon reading this on the employment test, you may have wondered, “What does China or the Soviets have to do with Howard County or police work for that matter. “

Upon entrance to the police academy, whether it in Baltimore City or County, Anne Arundel County, or Prince Georges County, you returned to HCPD with anticipation as well as some anxiety. The first shift when you met the first FTO, who constantly reminded you that you were a “rookie” but you quickly realized that he did actually know what he was talking about and doing. You might now be wondering if you ever thanked him for sharing his experience. Those FTOs help you form the foundation that you probably relied on for the remainder of your career. Additionally, the other officers on your shift probably inadvertently assisted you in your development as a police officer. The building of lifelong friendship were in the making right under your nose. People still speak of the cohesiveness of the platoons. The First Platoon, under Sergeant Geisler. The Second, under Sergeant James Robey. The Third, under the late Sergeant Ed Wessel, and finally the infamous Fourth Platoon under Sergeant Michael Chiuchiolo. And eventually, two years later, the implementation of the Fifth under the late Sergeant Maurice Miller. Remember how the members of the platoons even socialized on their days off.

As those years progressed we never have forgotten the solace of being in that patrol vehicle. For the most part, one was their own boss and determined what they were going to do that day. Whether write traffic tickets, find DWIs, conduct as many foot patrols as one could, or simply just handle the calls for service that they were assigned. It also was to ones advantage to be friends with the dispatcher on duty. Being in that car was quiet, peaceful and somewhat comfortable.

Throughout the rest of the career, one may have pursued other assignments which enabled them to have a very well rounded law enforcement career and opportunity to serve the citizens of Howard County. Of course there were moments over those times that were not very happy and somewhat stressful. However, its times such as now that those dark occurrences are push far from thought. The bottom line is that one may be very thankful for all the people that encouraged them, those that worked beside them, and the opportunities they had as an officer of the Howard County Police Department.

The message here is, take a moment. Sit back, relax and remember, think, and recall the good times that you spent carrying that badge and gun. Cherish the friendships that you made and experienced. Remember the quiet nights that you spent in a patrol car alone knowing that someone always had your back. If you do this, I guarantee you will smile and feel good. It’s a time for thanks.

**Have a wonderful Thanksgiving  
And may  
God Bless you and your Family.**





## *Retirees' Beat by Tim Branning*

This month I am profiling recent retiree Lisa Montgomery Fisher. Lisa started with HCPD in July of 1990. Lisa remembers not so fondly that her neighborhood lost power due to a storm during the night before her first day at the academy causing her to be late and earning a trip to the boss's office! Her first assignment was to Patrol where her sector partner was retired Captain John McKissick. I remember it well; I was their sergeant. Following a short stint in CIB to do applicant backgrounds it was back to Patrol. She later moved into V&N for seven plus years where she worked with Tori Plank and Dave Steves primarily doing intelligence work and supporting both Street Drug and Major Narcotics. Her stint in V&N included occasional undercover work posing as a prostitute and working on wiretap cases which she enjoyed. Her next assignment was R&P and became involved in CALEA. In 2008 she was promoted to corporal and went back to Patrol. After an on-duty injury she was assigned to short tour in Youth and then to Records where she stayed until her retirement in 2015. After retirement Lisa made a decision to move to Bend, Oregon where she will settle down for her post retirement life. Lisa enjoys scrapbooking, horses, and being outdoors in her spare time. She says she will probably find work, hopefully on a ranch working with horses. Lisa's son Ben is a freshman at Mount St. Mary's in Emmitsburg majoring in Criminal Justice and Sports Management. Ben runs Division 1 track for the Mount. Lisa says she "Has no regrets being a cop at HCPD", adding "Mostly I loved the job especially when I was new and was still learning, and it was still fun after because I could use all that knowledge and experience to get better".

Anyone remember the incident when night shift officers answered an alarm at Howard Vo Tech in the early morning hours and the first arriving officer saw what he thought was an intruder inside? The officer called for back-up to surround the school? Eventually the night contact arrived and K-9 made entry. The "suspect" was found to be a training mannequin in the beautician training classroom! It was positioned perfectly in the dark classroom so that its shape was highlighted against the dim hallway night lighting and appeared to be a person hiding behind some equipment. Everyone had a good laugh!

## *"Thank you for Your Support"*

### *A Message*

Mr. Daniel Gough, recently said thanks to HCPD and its retirees, and donated that 65 inch television for raffle at this year's Bull and Oyster Roast. We, the members of the HCPROA, wish to say to Mr. Gough, "Thank you for support, and we are grateful for that and your donation."

## *A Class Reunion – Academy Class #2*



An unexpected reunion of Academy Class #2 took place at this year's Bull and Oyster Roast. Graduating and sworn-in on March 8, 1975 (left to right) Retired Officer Terry Reed, Veteran Officer CeCe Clark Moran, Retired Captain Michael Kessler, Retired Officer Charles Gable were a few members of that academy class.

## *Sick Call*

**James Robey** – Recovering from ankle reconstructive surgery on 10/21/2015 and is doing well.

**Sue Goldman** – Currently undergoing treatment for cancer consisting of chemotherapy, bone marrow transplant therapy, and homeopathic therapy. Sue's spirits are well and loves hearing from former co-workers and friends.

**Dave Ash** – Recently completed his sixth and finally chemo treatment on October 6, 2015. He is under monitoring for blood counts. Dave reports he is still very tired, but feels he is getting better everyday. Dave sends thanks to those who have called and/or sent cards.

**Frank "Paco" Smith** – Still recovering, but doing extremely well after heart surgery. Doctor has released him to drive and hopefully Paco says, "I will be returning to work soon."

*Note: Only those reports that individuals that have given permission for release of information are provided. The above list is not all inclusive.*

# November Memorial

The below listed officers are those that we have lost during the month of November in previous years.



**Roger D. Cassell Jr.**  
End of Watch  
November 2, 1994



**Robert S. Jones Sr.**  
End of Watch  
November 2, 2011



**Gordon L. Ranson**  
End of Watch  
November 20, 2013



**Jennifer S. Cree**  
End of Watch  
November 22, 2009



*"Gone from our sight, but never gone from our memories and hearts."*

NOTE: Only those names are listed that have been verified by death notice and date.

## Briefing Notes Contributors

**Retirees & Veterans:** Larry Corum, Gary Gardner, Wayne Livesay, Bill McMahon, Tim Black, Capt. Steve Lampe,

**Other Sources:** Baltimore Sunpapers, Facebook, HCPD Archives, and HCPD Museum.

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To All  
HCPROA Members and  
HCPD Employees,

may your

HOLIDAY

BE FILLED WITH  
**FAMILY, FRIENDS  
LOVE, GENEROSITY**

**& MAY YOU  
NOT GAIN  
A POUND  
OR GET CRUSHED  
BY MANIACAL  
SHOPPERS**  
SO WITH WARM APPRECIATION WE SAY



**HAPPY**

**Thanksgiving**

Sincerely,  
the HCPROA Executive Board

## HCPROA CALENDAR

11/26/2015 "THANKSGIVING DAY"



12/3/2015 Holiday Happy Hour

Chef Paulino's [\(The Cellar Bar\)](#)

Happy Hour is from 3-7PM:

\$4.00 House wines (Red or White)

- \$2.00 off Rail Drinks
- .50 Domestic Beers
- .50 Imported Beers
- Half Price Antipasti

