Issue 4 2023/2024

THE RAPPAHANNOCK ROLL CALL

A publication of the Rappahannock Area Lodge #15, Fraternal Order of Police, Inc.



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LETTER FROM PRESIDENT DAVID THEISEN RAPPAHANNOCK AREA FRATERNAL ORDER OF POLICE LODGE 15



Brothers, Sisters, and Contributors

Here we are in 2024 and the latest edition of our FOP magazine is here. Thanks to all of our supporters, we have had a productive and successful year. Let me welcome the newest contributors to the latest edition of the magazine, and also thank our long-time contributors for their continued support. If it weren't for your generous donations, we would not have had a successful year.

First, through your donations, we have done a great deal for the community that we support. We begin the year by supporting Cub Scout Pack 325. We open our lodge to the Cub Scouts to hold events such as The Pinewood Derby, The Iron Chef and the Blue and Gold Banquet. These events have a great turn out and we support the scouts in any way that we can.

In May, we honor our fallen law enforcement personnel at our Annual Memorial and Awards program during Police Week. We solemnly honor those that have made the ultimate sacrifice for the safety of our citizens. We also Honor those who have exemplified what a Law Enforcement Officer is by performing above and beyond the call of duty.

In July, we give financial support to members and family members of the lodge with scholarships towards their continued education. We helped 12 members and/or families with their higher education.

The largest event for the lodge is the Annual Crab Feast held in October. We pack the house with members and family for the ALL You Can Eat Crabs. For those who don't eat crabs, we have hamburgers and hotdogs with all the trimmings. During the crab feast, The Auxiliary's of the Lodge hold a Chinese Auction which is always entertaining due to our Master of Ceremonies, Brother Larry Carmon. You never know what ceremonial outfit Larry will wear to MC events.

The last lodge event of the year is the Annual Christmas Party for the members and their families. Santa Claus, Larry, arrives and tells a story to the kids. Santa also provides gifts for the kids before he heads back to the North Pole. The lodge also has, at times, helped a worthy lodge brother or sister during a crisis, whether it be financial, spiritual, or just moral support during trying times. We also have assisted various member agencies with financial support to include equipment and programs such as police cadet programs.

I want to thank each and every one of you, the members, contributors, and our member agencies for the success of the lodge magazine. We look forward to seeing all of you in the coming year.

Thank you,
David Theisen
President
Rappahannock Area Fraternal Order of Police Lodge 15, Inc.









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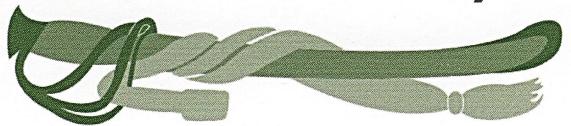
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2024 CUB SCOUT PACK 325 BLUE AND GOLD BANQUET



On Sunday, February 25, 2024, Cub Scout Pack 325 held its annual Blue and Gold Banquet. The Blue and Gold Banquet is held to celebrate the Birthday of the Cub Scouts of America. This program introduces young boys and girls to the scouting program. They are organized into Packs and then subdivided into Den's based upon their age. Cub Scouts can start in the Lions program which is designed for kindergarten age children. The parents are very much involved in the planning of activities and events. The highest rank a Cub Scout can achieve is Webelo. Once they attain the rank of Webelo they can choose to "bridge" to Scouts BSA program. Within the Fredericksburg area there are several Scout Troops from which a Cub Scout can choose to join.

Cub Scouts conduct several parent-supervised campouts, participate in the "pinewood derby race" and attend other scouting activities. The Pinewood Derby consists of the cub scouts starting with wooden blocks, and with a lot of help from the parent, carve the blocks into race cars. There is the rain gutter regatta in which the cub scouts will race a miniaturized sailboat on water. The cub scouts have the opportunity to attend a summer camp filled with activities where they can earn belt loops and patches for a number of outdoor related activities.

Rappahannock Area Lodge #15 has been the proud sponsor of Cub Scout Pack 325 for several years. Trustee Neil J. Hornung serves as the Charter Organization Representative to the Pack. Dr. Dan Gray is the Cubmaster and Terri Hoffman serves as the Pack's Committee Chair. The three of them make up the Key Three for the Pack which means they help to guide the Pack along with any business related functions that need to be performed.

Pictured at this year's Blue and Gold Banquet is Lodge 15's President David Theisen accepting the charter from Cub Master Dan Gray. The Charter is an agreement between the Cub Scout Pack and the Charter Organization, in this case Rappahannock Area Lodge #15 to provide a meeting facility and to provide support to the Cub Scout Pack.



(R to L) Cubmaster Dan Gray presents 2024 Charter President David Theisen and Trustee Neil Hornung



Cub Scout Pack 325 with Cubmaster Dan Gray, Trustee Neil Hornung, and Lodge President to Lodge Dave Theisen.

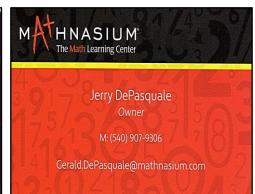


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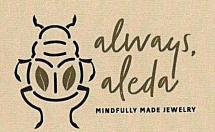




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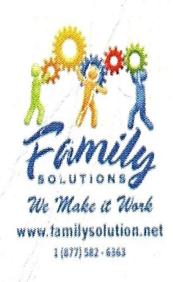
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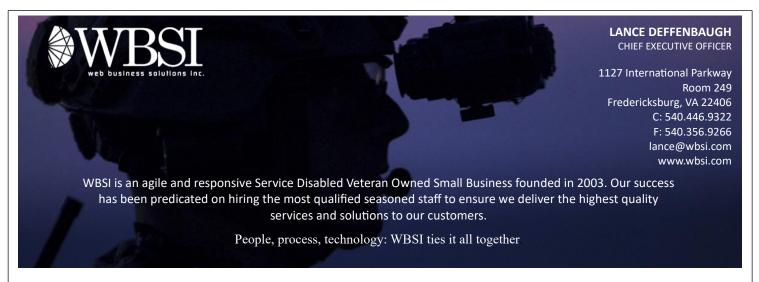
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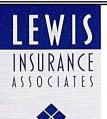
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Rappahannock Area Fraternal Order of Police Lodge 15 Auxiliary

The Fraternal Order of Police Auxiliary was organized to unite families of members of the Fraternal Order of Police; to promote their welfare socially, morally and intellectually; and to encourage them in all things pertaining to their good.

In 1920, a group of wives of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, police officers gathered to discuss issues concerning their husbands and their jobs. This was the birth of the first "FOP Ladies Auxiliary." In 1941, Kathryn M. Milton became the first national president of the Ladies Auxiliary. Since that time the Auxiliary has grown to over 1,900 members in 100 subordinate Auxiliaries representing 28 states.

In 1985, membership eligibility that originally allowed only females as members was extended to family members (18 years of age or older) of any member of the Fraternal Order of Police. In 1987, the name of the organization was changed, dropping the word "Ladies" to reflect the growth in membership of the organization.

On March 12, 1982 twenty ladies formed the Fraternal Order of Police Ladies Auxiliary to be known as Rappahannock Lodge 15 in Falmouth, Virginia. The motto of the Fraternal Order of Police Auxiliary is "Never Let Them Walk Alone".

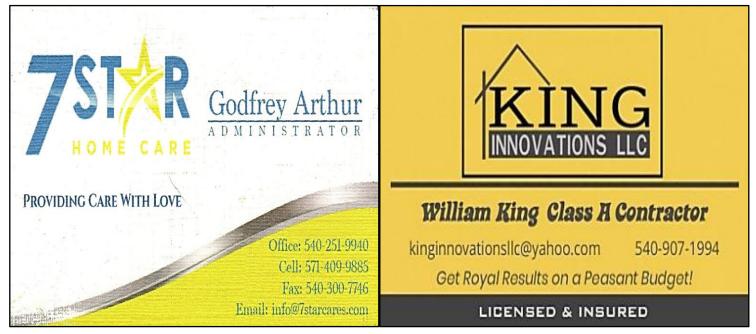
The FOPA's interests revolve around law enforcement and the men and women that have dedicated their lives to the protection of ours. The FOPA actively supports legislation, charitable causes, and all law enforcement efforts on a local, state and national level.

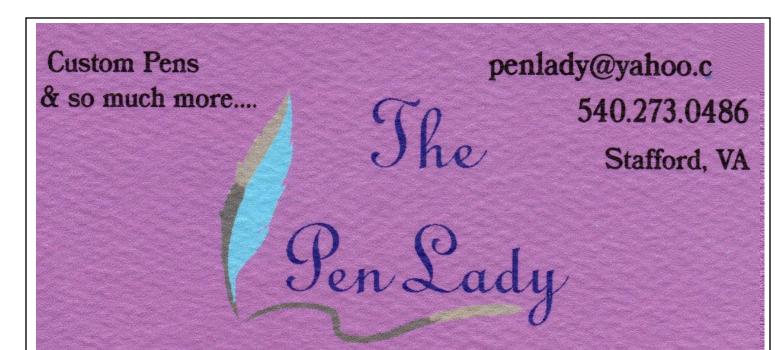
The Rappahannock FOPA provides fellowship and support for all local law enforcement and their families. Our auxiliary is honored to assist with the memorial service held annually at our lodge. It is on this day that we pause to reflect on the service and sacrifice of those who made the ultimate sacrifice.

The FOP holds an annual crab feast for our members, friends and family. During the feast the auxiliary has a Chinese auction of items and gift cards. Money raised from the raffle will benefit our scholarship fund. Each year we award an auxiliary member or immediate member of their family a scholarship for a four-year college or technical school.

Every fall around Veterans Day our auxiliary holds a Craft and Vender Fair. Each vendor and various businesses contribute items or gift cards. The donations are raffled off and more than half the proceeds are given to the Wounded Warrior Project.

We are also proud to help with Cops and Kids Project every Christmas where the lodge takes kids shopping with a law enforcement officer at Target. There is no better joy than seeing the smiles on everyone's faces while promoting unity between law enforcement and the community they serve. We also participate in the planning and running of the Christmas Parade and our lodge's Christmas Party.





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INTERVIEW WITH SHERIFF DAVID P. DECATUR STAFFORD COUNTY **SHERIFF'S OFFICE**





Sheriff David P. Decatur

The 2023-2024 Rappahannock Roll Call is highlighting the Stafford Country Sheriff's Office. We recently interviewed the Sheriff of Stafford County, David P. Decatur on his mission and vision for the department. Sherrif Decatur is a lifelong resident of Stafford County, Virginia. Prior to working with the Sheriff's Office, Sheriff Decatur served in the United States Army as a paratrooper. When he was discharged, he came back to his home and began his law enforcement career working in the Stafford County jail. Sheriff Decatur has been in law enforcement for 37 years.

Stafford County Virginia has a rich history which dates to 1664 when the English parliament decreed each county was allocated one sheriff. Stafford County became one of the first counties in Colonial Virginia to appoint a sheriff. Of course, Virginia has been a large contributor to American History. Once known as the mother of Presidents, Virginia produced many who eventually went on to serve as President, to include George Washington, Thomas Jefferson, and James Madison.

During the civil war, Virginia seceded from the Union and Richmond eventually became the Confederate Capital. During the period of reconstruction which followed the end of the Civil War, Stafford County underwent some major changes to include the Sheriff's Office. Eventually, the role of the Sheriff's Office was limited to law enforcement, court operations and managing the local jail.

Sheriff Decatur noted that when he first started in the Sheriff's Office, Sheriff Richard L. Ashby was one of his earliest mentors. Sheriff Decatur cited several of his predecessors who were instrumental in laying the foundation for the success of the Stafford Sheriff's Department to include men like Sheriff Ralph Williams who served from 1991-1999 and Sheriff Charles E. Jett, who served from 1999-2016. Sheriff Decatur was first elected to the office of the Sheriff in 2016. The foundation for the modernization of the Sheriff's Office is attributed to these individuals. Sheriff Decatur stated he learned a great deal from these individuals, which enabled him to successfully lead one of the more progressive law enforcement agencies in the Commonwealth of Virginia. Sherif Decatur laid out his department's vision as well as its four core mission areas:

Stafford County Sheriff's Office Vision Statement is "Dedicated, innovative people, working with the community, to serve and protect Stafford County while using the best tools and technology available" This vison is reliant upon the close working relationship which the Sheriff's Department has with local area residents, allowing citizens to feel safe, keeping crime rate low as the population increases. This is only possible while working with community groups, religious groups, business, and other government agencies to resolve problems and lead Stafford County forward.

The Stafford County Sheriff's Office (SCSO) Mission Statement outlines what the department will do to accomplish its vision. "We, the men, and women of the Stafford County Sheriff's Office in partnership with our community, are dedicated to enhancing the quality of life by maintaining order, protecting life and property, and reducing the fear of crime. We will ensure the peace and safety of all citizens by upholding the Constitution of the United Staes and the Commonwealth of Virginia. Stafford County Sheriff's Office has four principles by which they operate:

Integrity –. This is to earn and maintain the trust of the citizens they serve. Exhibiting professionalism, accountability and adhering to the highest ethical standards

Compassion—Treat everyone with respect, dignity and understanding. Important to listen to the needs of the community it serves.

Fairness – to maintain a standard of what is right, proper, free from self-interest, and prejudice. Consistent and objective.

Professionalism – Provide quality service through motivated, dedicated, and well-trained law enforcement officers and support staff.

Sheriff Decatur cites, with great pride, that the Stafford County Sheriff's Office was one of the first law enforcement agencies to be accredited in the Commonwealth of Virginia. The accreditation process is a long and arduous process but it is one worth doing. It demonstrates the agency's commitment to excellence and a standard of service to the community it serves.





Stafford County Sheriff's Office Honor Guard



Stafford County Sheriff's Office Motorcycle Unit

Sheriff Decatur discussed a study which focused on manpower issues within the organization. In 2017, the department initiated its Strategic Planning. During this period, the Sheriff's office started a drone program. SCSO was the first in the Commonwealth to implement drones for law enforcement purposes. Drones have been used to document crime scenes, locating missing persons, and in natural disasters. The Strategic plan addressed the ratio of how many law enforcement officers are required to the number of citizens within the community. The intent was to ensure that SCSO had the proper number of law enforcement to serve the community.

One of the critical areas which needed to be covered was the local area schools, from grade school through high school. The School Resource Officer is a key player within the school system. The SRO protects and serves the schools while at the same time enabling the educators to teach the children in an environment free from threats and intimidation. Within the elementary schools they use the term School Protection officer (SPO). Under Sheriff Decatur's leadership, he stood up the School Safety Task Force. The task force is designed to look at improving the overall security within the schools. The Stafford County Sheriff's Office implemented an active shooter training program. This program is designed to educate while at the same time enabling teachers along with school bus drivers to recognize and deal with an active shooter situation. The primary focus is to protect one of the fastest growing counties in the Commonwealth of Virginia. According to the last census, Stafford County had recorded a population of over 160,000.

According to Sheriff Decatur, the Stafford County Sheriff's Office has 254 sworn officers. The focus is recruiting high quality individuals and retaining them. However, Sheriff Decatur noted that it is challenging, especially in today's environment, to recruit and retain individuals to the law enforcement profession. He is competing against the private sector as well as other departments which are offering higher salaries and benefits. Sheriff Decatur noted that one of the other challenges is active community involvement and building public trust. Public Trust is the cornerstone of the relationship between the department and the citizens. If they do not trust the Sheriff's Department then it is difficult to work with them on solving crime.

Sheriff Decatur discussed some of the more recent challenges facing the Sheriff's Office. The COVID pandemic and the Black Lives Matter Movement both offered significant challenges for policing in the community. COVID highlighted the need for law enforcement to continually function during a worldwide pandemic. Yet, the organization had to adjust. The department was still providing law enforcement service during the pandemic and had to accommodate for staff members who became ill and the resulting staffing shortages during critical periods.

Personal Protection Equipment (PPE) was in short supply, and purchasing these items to keep the staff safe and healthy was a priority for the department

Sheriff Decatur noted that his department, despite some of these challenges, was able to aid some of the more elderly residents in the county. Several of the elderly could not get out to get their medications, groceries, and necessities. He instituted a program to adjust procedures for traffic stops, court procedures, adjusting court processing to address concerns over COVID and health related issues. During the COVID Pandemic, the Stafford County Sheriff's office had to undergo some administrative changes to address the health concerns of its employees as well as of the citizens. Addressing the needs, the senior citizens within the community necessitated the department conducting periodic health checks. Often the deputies would deliver groceries, medication and other essential items that were in need. COVID also impacted the criminal justice system. Several court related actions had to be deferred due to the pandemic which resulted in an increase in mental health related calls to the department.

He noted that during this period, there were several calls to the Sheriff's office over mental health issues. As Sheriff Decatur noted, the organization learned how to be agile and flexible. His organization had to adjust to a changing environment due to protests experienced



Stafford Deputy at Community Event



Stafford Deputy engaged with Community leaders

by departments in other locales. Yet Sheriff Decatur tried to engage with local community leaders to address



Stafford County Sheriff's Deputy with a young citizen

leaders to review some of the video footage involving incidents between his deputies and members of the community. By doing so, he was able to diffuse situations before they became exacerbated.

One of the other areas which Sheriff Decatur highlighted was the need

their concerns before they got out of hand. He invited community

One of the other areas which Sheriff Decatur highlighted was the need to meet Department of Justice standards to include; use of force, conflict resolution, the ban on chokehold, establish force continuum and addressing cultural diversity training for the department. To address enhanced training standards, Sheriff Decatur discussed the use of shooting simulators. The simulators help law enforcement officers to train to deescalate use of force situations.



Stafford County Deputy interviewing a witness

In some instances, Sheriff Decatur has invited members of the community to experience the shooting simulator so they can experience the type of "shoot/no shoot" situations in which a law enforcement officer may find themselves.

Sheriff Decatur noted that law enforcement today is facing many challenges. The LEO's of today need to be more compassionate but at the same time, be on alert for any potential threats.

Obviously, crime prevention is a top priority for the department, but Sheriff Decatur did note that, in some situations, a mental health

professional is needed. However, there are not enough mental health professionals to deal with all of the various types of calls they respond. School safety is another top priority for the department. Unfortunately, the recent

history of school shootings demonstrates the need for a more robust need for not only School Resource Officers but also mental health professionals.

Sheriff Decatur noted areas in which the department has made some great strides; community engagement, school safety, traffic safety, advanced training and safety of the force, and advanced technology and equipment. The Department is working toward the reduction of opioid epidemic, fentanyl, human trafficking, and cyber-crimes. In response to the overwhelming epidemic in narcotics, deputies have been trained and issued Narcan kits.



Sheriff Decatur engaging with some young Stafford residents.

Unfortunately, domestic violence is an issue the department must deal with on a regular basis. Consequently, the department implemented a Domestic Violence Unit around 2019. The unit works with local non-profit agencies designed to assist those in need. It should be noted that Stafford County Sheriff's Office was the first in the Fredericksburg area to implement the Lethality Assessment Protocol, an evidence-based assessment tool officers use to determine whether a domestic violence survivor is at risk of becoming a homicide victim. In addition, the department has procured improved technology for photographing domestic violence inflicted injuries. Although not immediately apparent to a responding unit, this equipment has helped in developing domestic violence cases and documenting essential evidence for use in the trials.

Stafford County Sheriff's Office is a fully accredited law enforcement agency from the Virginia Law Enforcement Professional Standards Commission (VLEPSC) since 2020. Stafford County Sheriff's Office created a Community Engagement Team in 2022 which consists of 11 members of the office. The team attends and organizes community events. As of 2023, the department invested in upgrades to the deputy's uniform and equipment. Several of the improvements included protective outer vests, and body cameras.

Sheriff Decatur and his staff have come a long way since the area was founded in 1664. With the advancement in technology, the complexities of criminal cases and the ever-changing dynamics today, it is critical the community has a modern, accredited law enforcement agency to protect and to serve its community. Stafford County Sheriff's Department is a shining example of a modern, engaged law enforcement agency. The Stafford County Sheriff's Office sees the Fraternal Order of Police and other law enforcement organizations as an integral part in enhancing the importance of the law enforcement profession as well as its mission to protect the community it serves.







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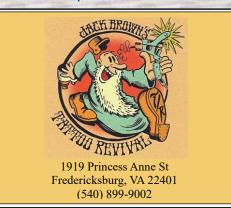
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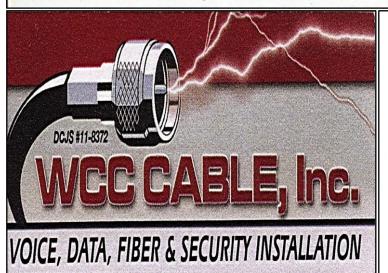


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THE FRATERNAL ORDER OF POLICE: THE LAW ENFORCEMENT MELTING POT

The history of law enforcement community in the United States can trace its origins to the Boston Watch. It was organized in 1631, as individual citizens were recruited to act as watchmen. They were paid a fee and tasked with keeping watch from dusk to dawn along the Boston Neck between Roxbury, Massachusetts, and the then-tiny hamlet of Boston. The Boston Watch eventually was tasked with night watch duties for the growing city of Boston until 1854, when it was officially replaced by the Boston Police Department.

The oldest federal law enforcement agency is the United States Marshals Service, established in 1789, and the New York City Police Department, founded in 1844, is the nation's oldest municipal agency. We have come a long way since the days of watchmen, especially regarding the concept of policing and the title of Police Officer. The FOP also has international chapters in Canada, England and Ireland.

Looking at modern-day America, we see a richness of law enforcement agencies. Long gone are the days of city policing and fugitive recovery. Today, we have an agency and jurisdiction for almost every conceivable crime or activity. Many of these agencies have overlapping areas of responsibility. There are Federal agencies such as the U.S. Marshals, Border Patrol, ICE, Bureau of Prisons, U.S. Customs, DEA, FBI, Secret Service, Capitol Police, Park Police, U.S. Fish & Wildlife, National Park Service, IRS, Homeland Security to name just a few. At the state level there are agencies such as the State Police, State Corrections, Alcoholic Beverage Commission, Gaming Commission, Port Authority, Dept. of Conservation, State Constables, State Park Rangers, Capitol Police, State Marine Police, and Campus Police. Those agencies are augmented by county and municipal agencies such as Sheriff's Departments, Regional Jails, County Corrections, local Police, Regional Police, County Marshal, Animal Control, Housing Authority, Park Police, Transit Authority, School Safety, and many more. This list may seem long to many, but the fact is, this is only a fraction of the agencies in this country. There are literally thousands of law enforcement agencies in the United States. According to the Department of Justice, Bureau of Justice Statistics in 2018, a total of 17,541 state and local agencies performed law enforcement functions in the United States and employed 1,214,000 full-time sworn and civilian personnel, an increase of about 80,000 (up 7%) since 2008.

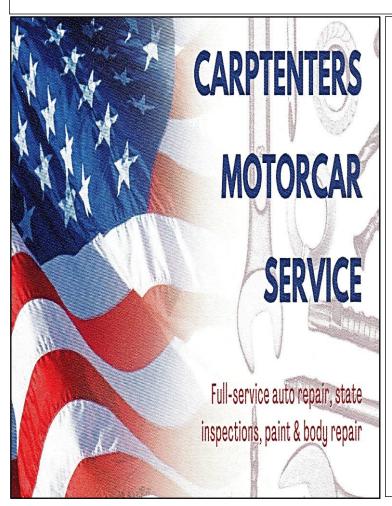
- Local police departments accounted for 67% of state and local law enforcement agencies in 2018; sheriffs' offices accounted for 17%; and primary state, tribal, and special jurisdiction agencies, constables, and marshals accounted for 15%.
- In 2018, local police departments employed more than half (59%) of state and local full-time sworn personnel, while sheriffs' offices employed about a quarter (24%).
- From 2008 to 2018, the number of full-time sworn and civilian personnel employed by special jurisdiction agencies increased by 42,000 (up 46%).¹

With so many agencies abound, the thought of an Officer or Agent identifying themselves as an Officer or Agent from insert agency name here, is simply too confusing for the average citizen to understand, especially in spite of the fact that "Police" has become the universal Law Enforcement identifier, thereby uniting all Law second during a crisis. Thus, we have gravitated to the universal identifying word of "police" for all law

enforcement officials to use. Because of this trend, some agencies, like Virginia's Dept. of Wildlife Resources have changed its name to Virginia Conservation Police, and New Jersey's Dept. of Corrections has changed their Officers' titles from Correction Officer to Correctional Police Officer. Regardless of agency name or position title, the fact is that "Police" has become the universal Law Enforcement identifier, thereby uniting all Law Enforcement. The trend of unifying Law enforcement has even gone further than the word police with the Law Enforcement Officer's Safety Act 18 U.S.C. § 926C (HR218). This law was originally established in 2004 and has been amended twice since its enactment and challenged 8 times in federal court. The Law Enforcement Officer's Safety Act has continually expanded the members of Law Enforcement.

With the expansion of law enforcement in the country and the world, the National Fraternal Order of Police (FOP) has recognized our growing community and welcomed all law enforcement into our organization. Today, instead of just State Police and municipal Police Officers, the FOP has every conceivable type of Law Enforcement agency under its representation. In those states which allow their law enforcement agencies to conduct collective bargaining, the FOP acts as a contract agent for many agencies and affords all members, regardless of bargaining status, the opportunity for a legal defense plan. Additionally, the FOP lobbies the state and federal governments to pass laws protecting all Law Enforcement Officers, thereby making it safer for the law enforcement officer and the citizens they serve. By welcoming all law enforcement officers into the FOP, our organization has become a networking hub for all, helping law enforcement officers around the world build working relationships that translate into better interagency cooperation.

The FOP is proud of its continuing work to bring the law enforcement community together as one big law enforcement family – serving and protecting all citizens.







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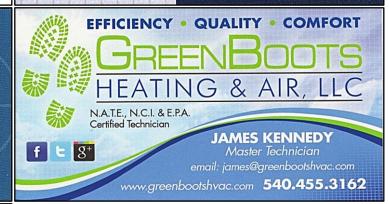
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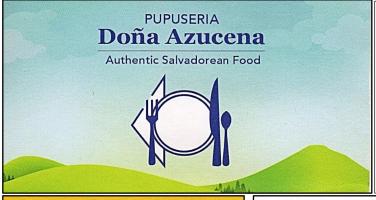
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2023 ANNUAL AWARDS & MEMORIAL CEREMONY

On May 18, Lodge 15 held the annual Memorial and Awards program. This event is held during Police Week. May 15 was declared Peace Officers' Memorial Day by President Kennedy in 1962. During this emotional event we pay homage to law enforcement officers, both active and retired, who have passed away. This solemn event is emotional for many of the attendees. There are spouses of members, members families, and agency representatives who had served with those who we are memorializing. During this event a member of the agency represented reads aloud the names of their fallen. We also salute members of the lodge both from the general lodge and also members of the Auxiliary who have passed. At the end of the reading of the names the Auxiliaries post a wreath with white carnations. On the back of the wreath, the names of the fallen of the lodge are written so they are not forgotten. The Lodge Auxiliaries' motto is, "Never let them walk alone." During this event the Auxiliaries certainly take this motto to heart.

During the program, We also honor the law enforcement officers who exemplified what a Law Enforcement Officer truly is. They demonstrate the commitment, dedication, and integrity of performing their duties day in and day out. Each agency submits the name of an individual to receive the honor of "Law Enforcement Officer of the year" from their respective agency. The City of Fredericksburg, Spotsylvania Sheriff's Department, Stafford Sheriff's Department, Virginia State Police, and the Rappahannock Regional Jail were all represented at this year's Award program. A member of the lodge is also selected to be "Member of the Year". From Fredericksburg, Officer Joel DeCilles received "Officer of the Year". From Spotsylvania Sheriff's Department, Deputy Jessica Delage received "Deputy of the Year". From Rappahannock Regional Jail, Corporal Matthew Reddy received "Officer of the Year". From Stafford Sheriff's Department, Master Deputy R. T. Kulbeth received "Deputy of the Year". From Virginia State Police, Senior Trooper Comer received "Trooper of the Year". The Lodge 15 member who received the Member of the Year was Director Frank Webster. All of the recipients received membership to the Rappahannock Area Fraternal Order of Police Lodge 15 for the remainder of the year.





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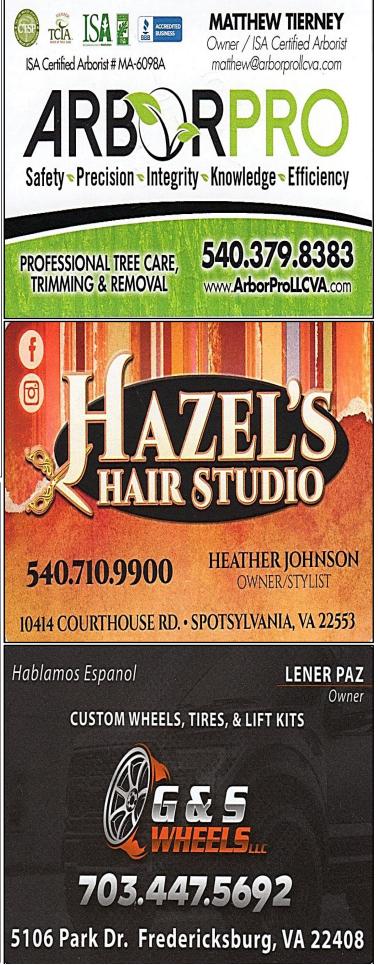


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2023-2024 Scholarships Awarded

Leach-Harrell Scholarship Recipients

In July 2023, during our monthly meeting, we distributed the annual Scholarship awards to our members and member's families. Brian Wheeler (Second VP) oversees the Scholarship program and spends countless hours reviewing the recipients' applications for the scholarship. This year we were able to help 12 recipients towards their goal of continued education. To be eligible, you must be a member or a direct family member (child, grandchild, spouse) of a member of the Fraternal Order of Police. The funds are sent directly to the school registrar and can be used for books or supplies as needed. The award amounts vary each year based on available funds and the number of recipient applications received. Through the years we have helped many members of the lodge and their family members to continue their education. In 2023, we assisted the following:



Heather Wheeler Wife of Brother Troy Wheeler Liberty University



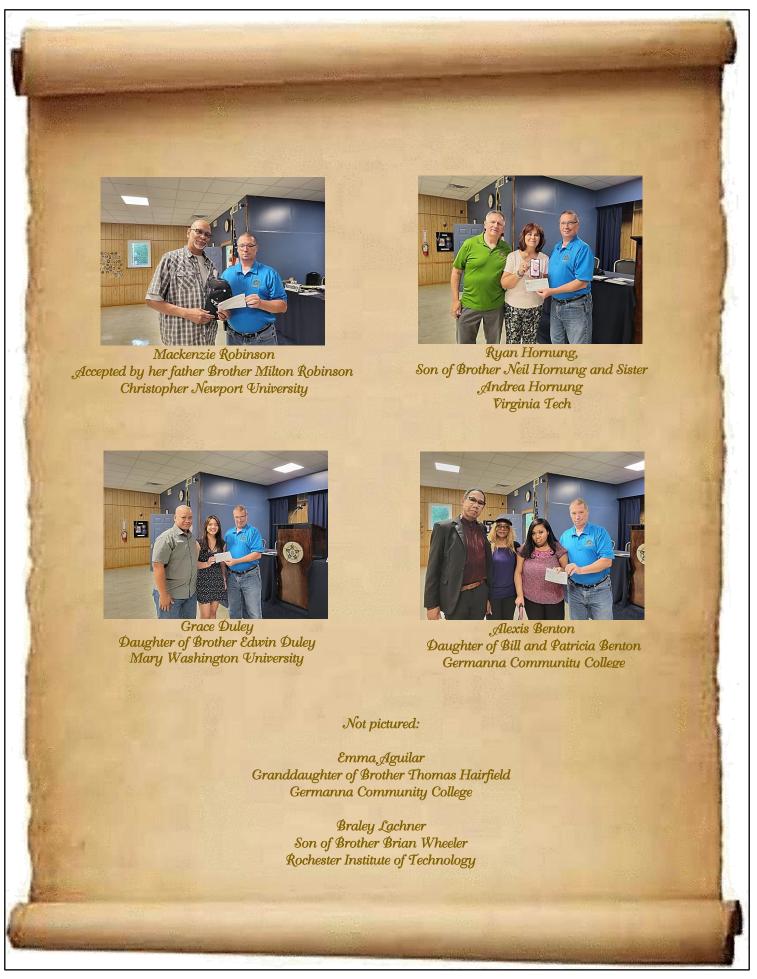
Gabriel Bailey – Kutztown University Sidney Finley – Reynolds Community College Meredith Peters – James Madison University Accepted by Brother Craig Peters (Grandfather)



Cheyenne Webster Daughter of Brother Frank Webster Rappahannock Community College



Angelina Nguyen Daughter of Brother Peter Nguyen Florida State University





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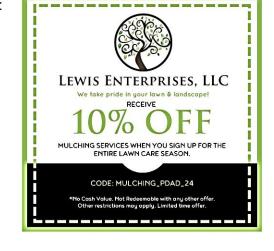
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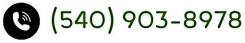
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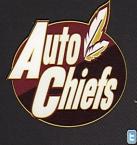
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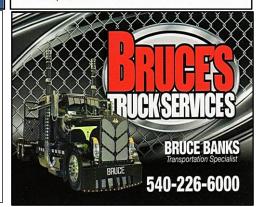
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NATIONAL FRATERNAL ORDER OF POLICE 66TH BIENNIAL CONFERENCE LAS VEGAS NEVADA **AUGUST 14-17, 2023**

On August 14, 2023, the National Lodge of the Fraternal Order of Police called into session the 66th Bi-Annual Conference at the MGM Grand in Las Vegas Nevada. The opening ceremony included remarks from National President Patrick Yoes and National Chaplin Rick Snyder. The presentation of the colors was done by a multi-agency color guard consisting of Officers from Las Vegas PD, Nevada Department of Corrections, Henderson PD, Clark County School District PD, Transportation Safety Administration, and the Emerald Society. Following the presentation of the colors, a memorial service was held to honor the fallen. After the memorial service, the conference was opened for business.

The first speaker was Brother David Moody from the Nevada State Lodge. The 2nd speaker was Brother Gary Schofield of the US Marshal



Site of the 2023 National FOP Conference



Honor Guard for the Opening of 2023 National FOP Conference

Service District of Nevada. The 3rd speaker was Assistant Chief Michael Harris of North Las Vegas PD. The 4th speaker was Deputy Chief Jonathan Boucher of Henderson PD. After the guest speakers President Yoes addressed the Delegates.

President Yoes announced that the issue of "qualified immunity" is no longer an issue being pursued by the Federal legislators. He noted that some states have removed qualified immunity on the state level, but the National FOP is working to get it restored in those states. It was clarified that associate members are eligible for the legal defense plan. Vice President Gamaldi addressed the delegation and informed everyone that the goal of the National Lodge is to eventually bring all law enforcement agencies under collective bargaining under the FOP.

We have 373,557 members strong as of August 14 and will continue to get bigger and stronger. He vowed to never give up the fight for Officer safety. Secretary Holderfield addressed the delegation stating that the National Lodge was seeking an amendment to the By-Laws to eliminate gender specific language, not out of political correctness but rather out of respect and acknowledgement for the fact that so many women have become leaders in the state and local lodges and that it was not respectful to have male only verbiage in the constitution and By-Laws. The delegation passed this amendment.

During the Virginia Delegations caucus, it was decided that Brother John Ohrnberger, Past President of the Virginia State Director Frank Webster with National FOP President Yoes and Lodge, will be the Virginia National Trustee. The vote for the National Vice President Gamaldi 2027 Conference was between Chicago Illinois and Salt Lake City Utah. Salt Lake easily won that vote.



After the all the speeches, votes, and business dealings every day there were plenty of fun activities to take part in. The Cirque du Soleil put on a magnificent performance for the delegation and their families. The State Lodge of Pennsylvania hosted a hospitality night at the Hard Rock Café with food and drink for all delegates and their families. On the afternoon

of August 17, the Conference was closed. The next Conference is going to be held in Miami Florida in August 2025.



Virginia FOP Delegation 2023 National FOP Conference



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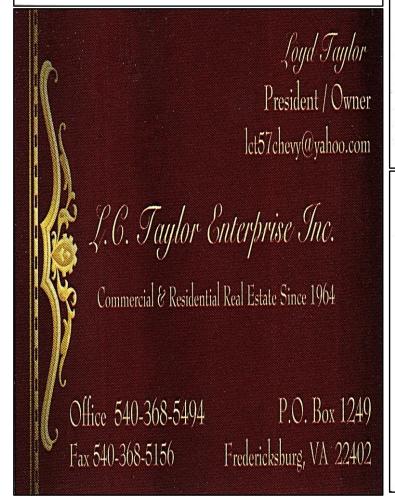
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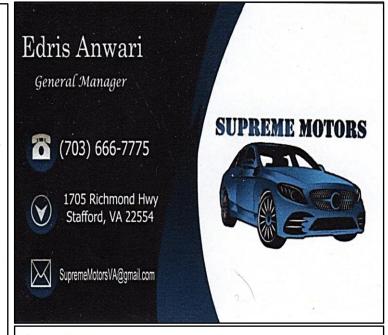
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2023 RAPPAHANNOCK AREA LODGE #15







On October 7th, our lodge held the annual Crab Feast and Chinese Auction. This event allows members and guests to come to the lodge for an "all-you-can-eat crab feast" while enjoying some camaraderie. The 2023 crab feast was attended by over a hundred members, their guests, and non-members. In attendance were the National Trustee of the National Lodge and former Virginia State FOP President John Ohrnberger and his wife and Tom Dolan both from the Loudoun Lodge. Also attending was Gwen Orfield, President of the Chesterfield lodge and creator of our annual magazine.



In addition to blue crabs, we also provided hamburgers and hotdogs with all of the

fixings. At the end of the crab feast, the lodge Auxiliary held a Chinese Auction where items that have been donated from members and from local businesses are put up for auction. A Chinese Auction is where a receptacle is placed in front of the item, tickets are purchased and you place a ticket(s) in the receptacle of the items you want to bid on. A ticket is drawn from the receptacle and if the ticket drawn matches the ticket being held by the participant, they have won the item.











Over the last few years, this auction has grown and is a big draw for people from all over. Part of the draw for the auction is our Master of Ceremony. Brother Larry Carmon emcee's this event and it is always a surprise as to what outfit he will be dressed in. In years past, Larry has dressed up as a pink bunny, a pirate, and has worn a pink suit. We have people who come from all over the Commonwealth. This year we had two women who had heard about our crab feast on social media, who drove from Arlington, Virginia. They wanted to see what the event

Was all about. Members, and members of families who have moved out of the area come to attend the Chinese Auction. One member's family travels from Lynchburg every year.





The Chinese Auction is always great fun and the proceeds helps the Auxiliaries with scholarships for their members.

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On Friday, October 27, 2023, ICE Office of Professional Responsibility - Senior Special Agent, Jeremy M. O'Hara, an FOP Lodge 15 member, while serving as the ICE Agency President and as a National Board Member (National Director of Recruitment) of the Federal Law Enforcement Officer Association (FLEOA), attended the 2023 FLEOA National Awards Banquet in Houston, Texas. The guest of honor was Devarjaye "DJ" Daniel, an 11 yearold cancer warrior who is on a mission to be sworn in by as many law enforcement agencies as possible. To date, DJ has been swornin by over 800 law enforcement agencies and currently holds the Guiness Book of World Records title for the person sworn into the most law enforcement agencies. SSA O'Hara was honored to swear-in DJ, on behalf of the Homeland Security Investigations (HIS) Executive Associate Director's office and present him a commemorative badge and proclamation naming him an honorary HSI Special Agent. In addition to HSI, DJ is now an honorary law enforcement official of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, the U.S. Marshal's Service, the Diplomatic Security Service, Internal Revenue Service - Criminal Investigations, and the U.S. Border Patrol, along with hundreds of additional Federal, State, and Local agencies.





Senior Special Agent Jeremy M. O'Hara with Devarjaye "DJ" Daniel

DJ has been fighting brain and spinal cancer for almost half of his life and when he was six, he was told he only had months to live.

DJ's been determined to live a life of service and because of his love for law enforcement, his Houston-based family made it their mission to help him get sworn-in by law enforcement agencies across the country. The Texas Children's Cancer & Hematology Center has even stated the swearing-in ceremonies "have proven beneficial in the treatment of this critically ill child."

FLEOA leadership asked each Agency President to bring something special for this special little boy; HSI, ERO, OPR, and OPLA didn't disappoint and responded with an outpouring of support and items for DJ.



Below are links where you can read more about DJ.

https://www.livenowfox.com/news/devarjaye-dj-daniel-childhood=cancer-honorary-police-officer

https://blogs.houstonisd.org/news/tag/devarjaye-daniel/

https://news.rice.edu/news/2022/battling-cancer-10-year-old=devarjaye-dj-daniel-sworn-honorary-rice-police-officer.

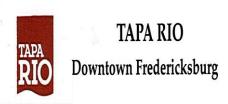
https://www.wsmv.com/2022/11/16/boy-battling-terminal-brain-cancer-sworn-honorary-officer/.



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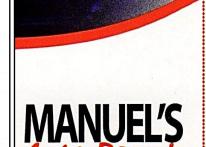
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FOP Lodge #15 held our 32nd annual Cops and Kids Project (formerly known as the Richard L. Parsons Memorial Shop with a Cop Project) on December 9, 2023 at 6:00 AM, at the Target store in the Central Park shopping area in Fredericksburg. We hosted 120 children in need who were nominated by their school counselors in the city and four surrounding counties, the Thurman T. Brisben Center (homeless shelter), Loisann's Hope House (long term homeless shelter), and Empowerhouse (domestic violence shelter), to go Christmas shopping with a law enforcement officer or other volunteer with a budget of \$125.00 for each child. We raise the funds for this project from a portion of our annual lodge fundraising campaign, donations from our individual members, and donations from our community through a small direct mail campaign.



Target's doors open early at 6:00 AM for the eager shoppers



The kids and their parents check in and meet their cop



The shopping starts while the cops wait to be paired with a kid



Some happy shoppers with their NCIS agents

Dozens of law enforcement officers from the City of Fredericksburg, the Counties of Caroline, King George, Spotsylvania, and Stafford, the Virginia State Police, and various other local, state, and Federal agencies, both lodge members and non-members, volunteered their time on their day off to come to the store in uniform or raid jacket to assist the children with their Christmas shopping. In addition, we also had student volunteers from the Fredericksburg Academy the Chancellor High School National Honor Society as well as other volunteers from the public. We even had a live band from the Fredericksburg Christian High School playing Christmas music for the enjoyment of the children, their families, the law enforcement officers, and the store personnel. Our Cops and Kids Project has been a great success for these 32 years. We have been able to give over 5,282 children in need the joy of experiencing a wonderful Christmas at a total cost of nearly \$600,000.00 over the years. Target has been a very generous partner in this endeavor. Not only do they reconfigure their schedule to suit our needs by opening early for us, but they have given Cops and Kids a very generous contribution for many of these 20 years as well as excellent logistical support. We're already looking forward to this December for our 33rd FOP #15 Cops and Kids at Target!



Fredericksburg Christian School provided Christmas music for the kids and volunteers



Chancellor High School NHS students wrapping the gifts for their parents and siblings after checking out



Some the children and grandchildren of Brother Craig Peters came to help



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On the night of December 13, 2022 at approximately 8 p.m., Fredericksburg Sheriff's Office Lieutenant Tabatha Merrell was driving home on Route 1 after having completed duty in the annual Santa Ride through Fredericksburg. Having just left the Christmasthemed event, Lt. Merrell was still in her Mrs. Claus costume. At the same time, Fredericksburg Police Department Sergeant Aimee Lynch, also headed home on Route 1 from the same event and also still in costume, was just a few cars behind Lt. Merrell.

While driving northbound on the Falmouth Bridge, Lt. Merrell observed an unknown female subject leaning over the concrete safety railing of the bridge. Believing the subject was in crisis and preparing to jump from the bridge, Lt. Merrell quickly stopped her vehicle and radioed dispatch for assistance. Sgt. Lynch also observed the subject on the rail and immediately stopped to assist Lt. Merrell with the subject. Lt. Merrell and Sgt. Lynch quickly determined the subject was indeed suffering a mental crisis situation and both officers began engaging in dialogue with the subject in order to establish rapport and talk the subject down from the railing.

The subject did not respond to the officers' attempts to communicate and remained on the railing. Realizing the safety of the subject and the safety of the passing motorists on the bridge were in jeopardy, both



John Carberry of the CFL Chapter of the Virginia Society SAR presents Lieutenants Aimee Lynch and Tabatha Merrell with SAR Law Enforcement Commendation Medals

officers began closing their distance with the subject, while continuing to dialog with her. Once they were close enough to the subject, the officers quickly gained control of the subject, removed her from the railing, and turned her over to arriving emergency personnel. The subject was then taken to Mary Washington Hospital for further evaluation and treatment with the mental health professionals.

The actions of Lt. Merrell and Sgt. Lynch exemplify the finest qualities of law enforcement officers and underscore the fact that law enforcement officers are never truly off-duty. Thanks to their swift and heroic actions, a life was saved and a tragedy prevented.













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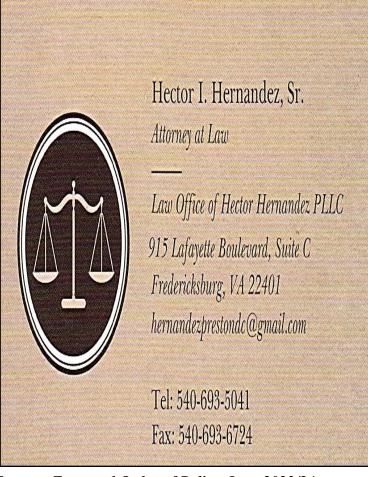


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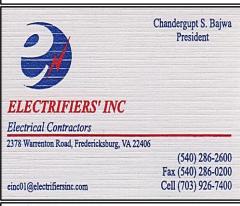
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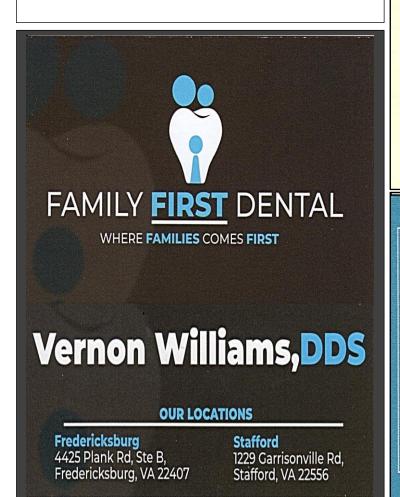
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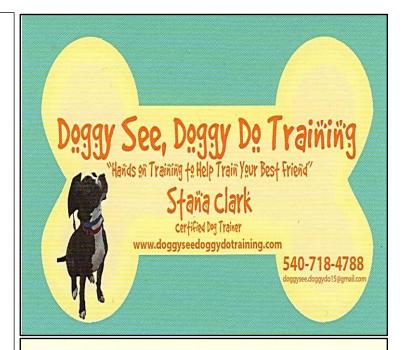
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The Fredericksburg Christmas Parade and Christmas Party

On December 2nd Rappahannock Area Lodge #15 participated in the annual Fredericksburg Christmas Parade and then hosted its annual Christmas Party on December 15th. The theme for the Christmas Party was "Under the Sea". Hence the various underwater themed floats. According to some estimates it was one of the largest parades with a large crowd in attendance.



Auxiliary member Andrea Hornung and Sgt at Arms Carl Poates helped to decorate the float



Auxiliary Lodge Member Lynn Hamilton oversees the decorations

Cub Scout Pack 325 participated in the Christmas Parade with Lodge 15. The Lodge is a Sponsor of Cub Scout Pack 325.



President Dave Theisen and Trustee Roger Henry man the wheel of the Christmas Float.

This year's Christmas Party was well attended. As usual Santa Claus showed up and provided stories as well as presents for all the children in attendance.

The Christmas Holiday was a very enjoyable time for all the members of the Rappahannock Area Lodge 15. The members really look forward to this special occasion to spend time with members they have not seen in a while and to share their "war stories".



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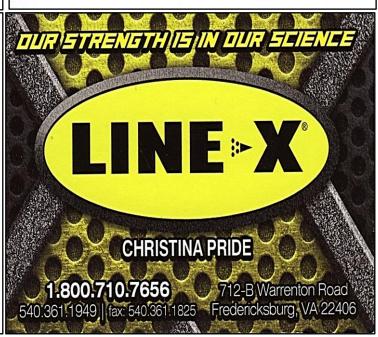


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Owner and President, Kristen has over 25 years of experience in the land development and residential/commercial construction industry. Many projects are adjacent to the National Park Service in the historic Chancellorsville Battlefield and in the Rappahannock River watershed. Many of these sites contain civil war earthworks which require sensitive construction practices. Prior to her start in construction, she worked in public accounting with firms in Washington, D.C. and Fredericksburg, Va. She has a B.S. degree in Accounting and Economics from Shepherd University located in Shepherdstown, West Virginia. Kristen is a member of the Virginia Society of Certified Public Accountants and the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants. She holds a Class A CBC/HH/RBC license and is OSHA-30 certified.

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2024 ANNUAL DAY ON THE HILL U.S. CAPITOL, WASHINGTON, D.C.

The 2024 National Fraternal Order of Police held its annual Day on the Hill from March 4 through March 6, 2024. This event enables the FOP Legislative Committee Representatives from each state the opportunity to meet with Congress and their staff to discuss issues concerning law enforcement.

This year we started with a joint rally with the International Association of Firefighters, on the west lawn of the U.S. Capitol building. The primary focus of the rally was the Social Security Fairness Act, H.R. 82. Having a joint rally was a great example of how people of different professions (sometimes seen as rivals) could unite for a common cause. Speakers at the rally consisted of FOP President Pat Yoes, IAFF President Ed Kelly, Congressman Garret Graves of Louisiana, and Congresswoman Mary Miller of Illinois. Not only did this rally bring together Police and Fire professionals but it brought together Democrats and Republicans for a bipartisan piece of legislation righting a wrong that has been going on for over 4 decades.



FOP President Patrick Yoes addresses the rally along with IAFF President Kelly



Rep. Mary Miller (D-IL) addresses the rally



Rep. Garret Graves (R-LA) addresses the rally

After the rally all the participants took off to attend meetings with their various Representatives and Senators. The Virginia State FOP Legislative Committee was represented by Neil Hornung and Frank Webster. Neil and Frank were able to meet with staff from every Representative and Senator from Virginia. Director Webster had a meeting with Rep. Spanberger (D-VA) on Wednesday, March 6, 2024. The meeting went well. Rep. Spanberger committed to supporting every piece of legislation that was on the FOP Legislative agenda.

National Day on the Hill is a key event for the National FOP to bring our concerns to members of Congress. Most Representatives and Senators express support for the Law Enforcement Community, Firefighters and First Responders. However, having a voice on the hill is critical to ensure our interests are heard and being met. All FOP members are encouraged to contact their elected representatives and let them know how we feel about legislation affecting active and retired members. It is your voice, let it be heard!



Director Frank Webster, National FOP Secretary Jimmy Holderfield and Trustee Neil Hornung at FOP National Day on The Hill 2024



Representative Spanberger and Director Frank Webster meeting at National Day on the Hill.

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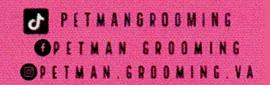
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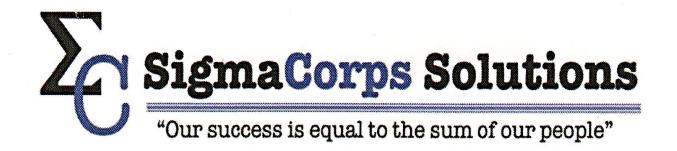


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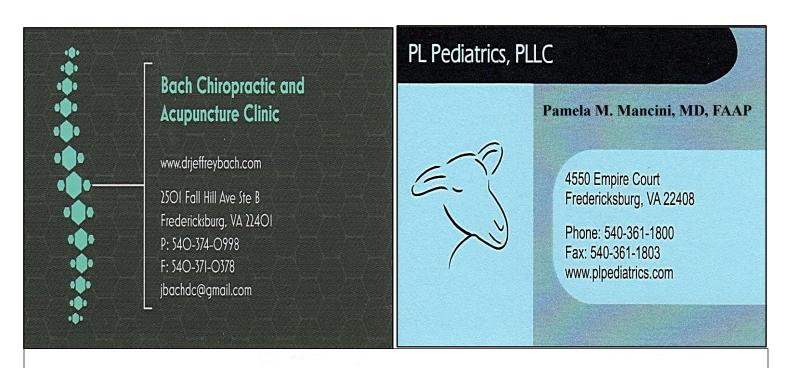
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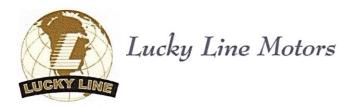
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