



# The Greater Cincinnati Police Historical Society Museum

"Preserving the history of law enforcement in the Greater Cincinnati area"

## The Roll Call Newsletter

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Summer 2017

### No such thing as a free lunch?

There may not be a free lunch but there is...free parking.



Free and convenient parking is now available for visitors to the Police Museum. Signs have been erected designating all space between 306 and 318 Reading Road as Police Museum Parking.

Parking is limited to 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. from Tuesday through Saturday and a Police Museum parking permit is required.

Parking permits, are available in the

Greetings!



Has it really been five months since we sent out our last newsletter?

A lot has happened in that intervening time, but one hot topic around Cincinnati has been the second trial of UC Police Officer Ray Tensing for the shooting of

Sam Dubose, which resulted in another hung jury. While we take no position on this particular case, as members of the law enforcement community, we do feel the need to present the facts concerning deadly encounters involving Greater Cincinnati law enforcement officers.

We know of no instance in Greater Cincinnati history where a law enforcement officer was charged with Murder due to an on-duty incident. It was, at one time, commonplace to charge for manslaughter in any death case and one Cincinnati Police Officer was even convicted of Manslaughter in the early 20th century; but he was not imprisoned or even dismissed from the force (probably an accidental shooting).

We know of no other conviction for any on-duty law enforcement officer criminally killing a person. One officer missed a criminal and killed a bystander. At least four officers, who already had their weapons out due to perceived life-threatening circumstances, accidentally pulled the trigger and killed someone; including two instances where the victims were other police officers.

If you multiply the thousands of Greater Cincinnati law enforcement officers by the tens of thousands of contacts each officer makes in a career, that's a wrongful death rate of about 0.0000006% (six ten-millionths of a percent). The death rate, including accidents, of 205 police officers in the Greater Cincinnati area is more than 34 times greater, and the criminal death rate of officers is 133 times greater.

## Meet your police museum staff

*This month, we present PO Charles A. Klug RET, Sales Chairman.*



On May 5, 2017, 48 years after his first day in the Police Academy on Broadway, our Sales Chairman, retired Police Officer Charles A. Klug, was awarded the first ever "President's Award" at the 50th Annual Hamilton County Law Enforcement Awards.

Charlie was born in 1941 and graduated from Elder High School during 1959. After high school, he clerked at the Blind Library in the Cincinnati Public Library and later became a Press Helper at the C.J. Krehbiel Printing Company in Northside. While working there in 1968 and 1969 he also worked part-time for Tri-State Private Police awaiting a full-time police officer position to open in Cincinnati.

On May 4, 1969, Charlie joined the

If there are any questions you want to ask, if you want to volunteer, or if there is something you'd like to see in a future issue, please contact me [here](#).

Thank you for your continued support.

Lt. Steve Kramer, RET

## How they get honored by Lt. Steve Kramer, RET

The erection of memorials for all fallen officers from any municipality began in 1909 in Kansas City - 118 years after the first line of duty death (LODD) was registered in Albany, NY in 1791. And therein lies a problem. How does one go about finding them when a memorial is commissioned a century or two after the fact?

How especially is it done when the memorial has a regional (e.g. Greater Cincinnati Police Museum) or national scope? And to what extent are they proven?

The first attempts to list LODDs in Cincinnati was done by newspapers and other publications. The first attempt by the Cincinnati Police Department (CPD) seems to be in 1891; probably in concert with the publication of *Our Police* (Roe, 1891). We imagine the monographs, newspapers, and books authors relied on, incestuously, for their data and as "proof."

The 1891 list was printed in CPD Annual Reports up to 2000. During 1960, the American Police Hall of Fame and Memorial compiled their list of LODDs by soliciting law enforcement agencies. The CPD provided them with the 1891 list, as amended with more recent deaths. During 1976 and 1988, when the FOP Ladies' Auxiliary and FOP, respectively, commissioned their memorials, they relied on the same list. The National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial (NLEOM) also solicited law enforcement agencies to build their list in 1991. During 1997, the CPD began posting on-line memorials from the 1891 list, as amended. The Officer's Down Memorial Page (ODMP) began posting LODDs from the NLEOM. In other words, the 1891 list, with other LODDs subsequently added as they occurred, was the sole source for every memorial in the country listing Cincinnati LODDs.

While walking in Spring Grove Cemetery one day in 2006, I happened upon Deputy Sheriff Thomas Higdon's monument and noted a date of death in 1866 - 14 years later than my recollection. The Greater Cincinnati Police Historical Society (GCPHS) research staff found that a newspaper inaccurately reported his death in 1852 - he had merely been wounded. The NLEOM, ODMP, CPD, and FOP were notified that their

Cincinnati Police Division as a Police Recruit. He was promoted to Patrolman on Aug. 17, 1969 and assigned to District 2 (314 Broadway). His Patrolman Coach was Patrolman Herb Kohus. Both Patrolmen moved to District 1 (310 Lincoln Park Drive) when that district absorbed District 2. During 1972, Patrolman Kohus trained Patrolman Ed Zieverink and in 1975 Police Officer Steve Kramer. For more than a year, all of Kohus's protégés were working with him at night in Sector 6, the downtown business district.

During 1975, Officers Zieverink and Klug joined the newly formed Special Weapons and Tactics Team and Officer Klug became its first sniper. During 1980, Officers Zieverink, Klug, and Kramer transferred to District 3 (3201 Warsaw). Officers Klug and Kramer were assigned to what would later be termed "The Greatest Relief" under Lieutenants Ronald Kellinghaus, Robert Andriot, and Robert Biddle.

On Sept. 8, 1982, at 11:17 p.m., Officer Klug notified Communications Section that he would back up Police Officer James Gary Weber on a report of Criminal

records and memorials were wrong.

We established very strong standards for inclusion in our memorial and applied those standards to the entire 1891 list. We were shocked! We could not find any mention of a Watchman Davis - ever - except in a book, *Murder Will Out* (DeBeck, 1867). Our Historian, Cincinnati Homicide Detective Edward W. Zieverink III (RET) tried to confirm his existence and LODD death. Instead, he confirmed that he never existed. The same book listed Watchman Strawther as a second murder of a Watchman in 1846, the same year as Davis. It was not "Strawther", but "Stoddard" and Stoddard died in 1852. He is listed twice on granite memorials and both times with his name spelled wrong.

Davidson's name was also spelled wrong. Carol was also wounded and not killed in the 1852 Bedini Riots. The closer the events got to 1891, the more accurate the list is, but the damage is done. Of the first six names on at least two granite memorials, only three are LODDs and only Brasher's is spelled correctly.

We have discovered almost two dozen LODDs from this region. Our and NLEOM standards now ask for proof of birth, proof of law enforcement affiliation, proof of death, proof of on-duty circumstances, and contact information for living next of kin (for name spelling accuracy). It is not impossible to get an officer listed without these, but it is difficult.

The first in which the GCPHS was involved in adding to the NLEOM was Hamilton County Special Deputy Elmore Pressley. We determined he was born in Ashtabula County, lived in Georgia, and moved to Cincinnati, but could not find his birth certificate. Hamilton County had no records of special deputies from the 1940s. We know he was on-duty, from multiple newspaper articles, the death certificate and autopsy report. We found no relatives, but did prove, through genealogical research, that he and his wife died without issue. We found no evidence of siblings for either. In the end, our proof was sufficient and 67 years after his death, he received a headstone, full honors, and a place at the National Memorial.

The next one was found by an ODMP researcher from North Carolina who discovered a Zanesville newspaper clipping about a Cheviot motorcycle cop's fatal crash in 1921. That researcher contacted the ODMP Executive Director who contacted the GCPHS. We researched it, found sufficient proof of life, law enforcement, LODD, and descendants. We completed the paperwork and now Deputy Marshal Albert Schmitt is on the National Memorial.

We are currently working on two more. During 2016, one

Damaging at the Whippy Dip at 2790 River Road. Upon arrival, the officers spoke to the complainant at the Whippy Dip and then walked across the street to investigate the suspect's abandoned vehicle.

Officer Weber opened the driver's door to write down the vehicle identification number. Officer Klug held a flash light on the ID tag. Both officers were struck by a Corvette driven recklessly and at a high rate of speed by highly intoxicated Stephen Curry James. Officer Weber was instantly killed. Officer Klug suffered traumatic injuries from his skull down to his ankles. His legs were nearly amputated at the knees.

After almost a year in University Hospital and numerous surgeries, Officer Klug had to resign during Nov. 1986. With a desire to continue his service, he returned to work as a Police Technician and earned a stellar reputation as a Desk Man in District 3, leaving in 2005.

Still not content to sit on his laurels, when the Greater Cincinnati Police Museum reopened in 2015 on Reading Road, he began volunteering there and soon took over the Gift Shop.

of our researchers, Joyce Meyer of the Price Hill Historical Society, came across a 1908 article about a City Hall House of Detention matron being crushed in an elevator accident, Matron Rosa A. Regan. Then, another of our Volunteers, Greater Cincinnati Airport Police Chief Thomas Mentrup (RET), found she had remarried after the birth of her children. From that, we found her personnel record and more than three dozen direct descendants.

Occasionally, we search the Internet with keywords to try and discover missed LODDs. Historian Zieverink found Patrolman Hutchison died of gangrene in 1893. He was given due honors at the time of his death, but was somehow skipped over on any of the lists that we had. We proved there are no living descendants and we are working on his NLEOM application.

We have 30 on our list for which we need confirmation of specific items. Most are railroad police, two are prohibition agents, and several were missed by their own agencies. A few are probably listed, but with the wrong spelling of their names. This detective work is just one of the things we do at the Museum and why we are always looking for more Volunteers.

### Support your Museum - join the Roll of Honor



During 1885, the City of Cincinnati established a Roll of Honor on which were inscribed the names of members of the police force who distinguished themselves by

extraordinary acts of heroism or duty. Those whose names were inscribed were, in every case, responsible for saving lives while risking their own.

The Roll of Honor thus becomes the symbol of our plea for 1,000 men and women who are serving or who have served as law enforcement officers in the Greater Cincinnati region to help save your Museum. We do not ask that you risk your life, as you have done so often for us in your careers, but only that you support the Museum's mission with a token 20¢, on average, per day.

Twenty cents! It can buy almost nothing these days. It is an amount some would rather lose than carry around in their pockets. But, it can save the Museum!

Please complete the Roll of Honor Application committing to an average donation of only \$100 per year for ten years. After the standard deduction allowed by the IRS, that is less than 20¢ per day. If we can find

Retired officers Klug, Kramer, and Zieverink can now be found at the Museum almost every Tuesday.

### Join the Museum

You can become a member of the Greater Cincinnati Police Museum for only \$25 per year. That's a small price to pay to learn about the history of law enforcement in our region, but more important, to support the thousands of men and women who put their lives on the line every day to keep us safe.

Won't you consider joining this worthwhile cause?

For more information about becoming a member or to volunteer, visit [here](#).

1,000 (about 20% of currently living active and retired area law enforcement officers) our Museum should survive well into the 21st Century.

Get more information [here](#).

### Colerain Township police sergeant to be honored

Colerain Township Police Sergeant Jerome Michael Grayson and the Colerain Township Police Department will donate to the Greater Cincinnati Police Museum Sergeant Grayson's uniform during a ceremony at the Museum at 11 a.m. on Saturday, July 15, 2017.



Jerry was born in Cincinnati on Independence Day, 1965; one of four children born to Jerry and Judy Grayson. He grew up in Cheviot and attended St. Aloysius grade school and LaSalle High School. His parents fondly remember his fascination with cars and watching the shows *Adam 12* and *Emergency*. Jerry knew at a young age his life calling was law enforcement. He attended the University of Cincinnati, majoring in Criminal Justice, and graduated with honors in 1988.

Jerry joined the Colerain Township Police Department as a patrolman in Feb. 1990. He served also as a detective and was promoted to sergeant during in 1999. In 2001, Sergeant Grayson graduated from Northwest University's School of Police Staff and Command and, during 2011, the Police Executive Leadership College.

Sergeant Grayson has been integral to the growth of the Colerain Township Police Department including creating policies and procedures for the vehicle maintenance program, property room, and impound lot.

Sergeant Grayson has served his community for 27 years. He never believed in taking a day off because he believed it put others in danger. He always exemplified professionalism and treated all living things with kindness and respect.

In September of 2016 Jerry was diagnosed with glioblastoma, a rare form of brain cancer. He was forced to take sick days. He has shown courage, perseverance, and faith throughout his illness. His prognosis is acute.

The Greater Cincinnati Police Museum houses thousands of artifacts from more than 160 law enforcement agencies serving the 8 contiguous

counties of Greater Cincinnati. Dozens of these artifacts include full sets of uniforms of the various agencies. Sergeant Grayson's Colerain Township uniform will be a welcome and important addition.

Sergeant Grayson resides with his wife, two children, Will and Winnie, and loyal dog, Charlie, in Fairfax. Two older children, Jon and Molly, are studying at the University of Cincinnati. His two brothers also served as first responders in Green Township and Colerain Township.

### Join our mailing list!

Stay on top of all the events and news from your Greater Cincinnati Police Museum. [Sign up today](#) - we will never sell or give away your email address.

Greater Cincinnati Police Museum  
308 Reading Rd.  
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(513)300-3664  
Open Tuesday, Thursday, and Saturday  
10 a.m. to 4 p.m.