



Greater Cincinnati Police Museum Richard W. Gross Memorial Newsletter Summer 2021

GCPHS Museum Earns Tripadvisor Recognition

The Greater Cincinnati Police Historical Society Museum has earned one of Tripadvisor's 2020 Traveler's Choice Awards given to attractions that consistently earn great reviews from travelers and are ranked within the top 10% of properties on their website.



Tripadvisor, Inc. operates a website offering online travel experiences and customer reviews by its members. According to the most recent website ratings, GCPHS Museum ranked 38th of 417 things to do in Cincinnati and was ranked 9th of 29 museums in the city.

Museum Director William T. Beuke commented: "The GCPHS is fortunate to have earned this recognition from Tripadvisor. We are proud of our museum and the efforts of our docents who share the history of law enforcement in the Greater Cincinnati area through personalized tours. We encourage our visitors to offer their reviews on Tripadvisor, and hope that their time spent with us was enjoyable and educational."

[View the Museum's Page on Tripadvisor](#)

Law Enforcement Situation Simulator featured on Fox19 News



The Greater Cincinnati Police Museum's new interactive Law Enforcement Situation Simulator (LESS) exhibit received local media attention on June 24, 2021, when a WXIX-TV Fox19 news crew interviewed retired UC Police Chief Gene Ferrara and retired Cincinnati Police Lieutenant Colonel Dale Menkhaus at the Museum and received a personal demonstration of the capabilities of this display.

LESS is a computer-generated interactive video that allows a participant, acting as a police officer, to engage in different scenarios that require split-second decisions to be made on the proper resolution to the situation.

Chief Ferrara stated in the interview: "The whole idea of this is so that people who are not in the job get a chance to put themselves in it, and realize all the things that have to go through an officer's mind in real-time of the situation. People get an understanding from the other side because it's not as easy as you might think it is."

The exhibit is available to visitors of the museum age 18 and older. Reservations to participate can be made on the Museum's website.

[Click here to watch the interview](#)

Newport Police Visit Police Museum

On June 24, 2021, Chief Christopher Fangman (pictured far right below) of the Newport Police Department made a special visit to the Greater Cincinnati Police Museum with his command staff and new recruits. Chief Fangman is an avid historian with a special interest in local history. The GCPHS appreciates the support of the Newport Kentucky Police Department and its members.



Two Cincinnati Officers Killed in the Line of Duty Honored 42 Years Later



Local 12: Intersection renamed for two Cincinnati officers killed in the line of duty

Officers Dennis Bennington and Robert Seiffert of the Cincinnati Ohio Police Department were honored on June 26, 2021, by the City of Cincinnati with the dedication of a street corner in their memory. The two officers were killed by gunfire on March 6, 1979, at the intersection of Oak and May Streets in the Walnut Hills neighborhood of Cincinnati by a wanted person with an extensive criminal history. Through legislative action by Cincinnati City Council, the intersection of these two streets now displays street signs bearing the officers' names.

On that tragic date over 42 years ago, the two uniformed officers, patrolling in separate cars, stopped Gregory Daniels who was wanted for robbery. As they attempted to positively identify Daniels, he fired upon the officers, killing them both. Daniels also died as a result of return gunfire from Officer Bennington.

The Greater Cincinnati Police Museum's Curator, Police Specialist Richard Gross, and Executive Director, Lieutenant Stephen Kramer, worked with Officer Bennington's daughter, Tina Bennington, for years, trying to get some recognition of her father's sacrifice. Specialist Gross would not live to see it happen, having died in 2019. And Executive Director Kramer retired in the interim.

The City's dedication ceremony took place at the intersection where they were killed and was led by Cincinnati Vice Mayor Chris Smitherman. Speakers included Cincinnati Police Chief Eliot Isaac, Councilmember David Mann, Councilmember Betsy Sundermann, Greater Cincinnati Police Museum Director William T. Beuke, and family, friends, and coworkers of the fallen officers.

Chief Isaac stated, "This block has long been a memorial to our department, honoring these two brave souls. It is only fitting that it is now formally designated to be so." The signs were unveiled by Robert Seiffert and Tina Bennington Sansone, children of the fallen officers.

[Click here to read more about Officers Bennington and Seiffert](#)

Roll of Honor Campaign

With ties to 19th-century law enforcement history in our area, the Greater Cincinnati Police Historical Society (GCPHS) began its **Roll of Honor campaign** and is actively seeking individuals to participate in a multi-year pledge of financial support.

Named after the Roll of Honor established by the City of Cincinnati in 1885 to recognize members of the police force for extraordinary service, the campaign asks for a ten-year commitment of at least \$100 per year to support the operations of the GCPHS and Museum.

Participants in the campaign will have their names inscribed on the GCPHS Roll of Honor at the Museum, and will also be provided with yearly acknowledgments of contributions for tax purposes.

Founded in 1998, GCPHS is a 501c3 non-profit organization with an unpaid volunteer staff who work diligently to convey an understanding of the history and aspects of local law enforcement through various community activities and a museum in the Pendleton Historic District of Cincinnati. The Museum opened in 2006, collects and displays artifacts representing the history of more than 100 local, township, county, state, and federal law enforcement agencies in communities within Boone, Butler, Campbell, Clermont, Dearborn, Hamilton, Kenton, and Warren Counties of Indiana, Kentucky, and Ohio.

The Society depends entirely upon museum admissions, memberships, grants, sponsorships, and donations for its operating costs. Participants in the campaign receive no goods or services in exchange for their pledges, and their contributions are tax-deductible to the extent provided by law.

For information on how to become a Roll of Honor Campaign donor, visit the GCPHS website or contact Museum Director William T. Beuke at director@police-museum.org or (513) 300-3664.

Fallen Cheviot Ohio Police Officer Honored



Local 12: Cheviot assistant marshal honored 100 years after he was killed in the line of duty

A Cheviot Ohio police officer killed in the line of duty 100 years ago was honored on May 31, 2021, by the City of Cheviot, Ohio with the dedication of a bronze plaque that will be displayed in its city hall.

On May 27, 1921, Assistant Marshal Albert Schmitt, while assigned to motorcycle patrol, was pursuing two motorcycles racing through the village. Due to one of the cyclists veering into his path, Marshal Schmitt crashed into a tree, succumbing to his injuries on May 28th.

On January 13, 2013, the Executive Director of the Officers Down Memorial Page (ODMP.org) notified the Greater Cincinnati Police Museum's Executive Director that a North Carolina researcher had "stumbled across a few articles" about a Cheviot, Ohio police officer killed in the line of duty in 1921.

Some on the Museum's Memorial Committee had been researching Cincinnati line-of-duty deaths since 1988 and had published their findings on the first website memorial in 1997. When the Greater Cincinnati Police Historical Society (GCPHS) was incorporated in 1999, they expanded their search to all line-of-duty deaths in the Greater Cincinnati region. But

they did not capture them all.

After receiving the notification, the GCPHS Museum and the Cheviot Police Department collaborated to research and confirm the death and circumstances, and to petition the National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial in Washington, D.C. to include him on their memorial. He was officially inducted on May 15, 2015.

One hundred years after his death, Assistant Marshal was additionally honored on May 31, 2021, by the City of Cheviot, with the dedication of a bronze plaque that will be displayed in its city hall. The plaque was donated by the Cheviot Historical Society and the Cheviot Police Public Safety Cadets and was almost entirely designed by the GCPHS.

Cheviot Mayor Samuel Keller presided over the memorial ceremony which took place in front of city hall in this community on the western border of Cincinnati. The keynote speaker was Retired Cincinnati Police Lieutenant Stephen R. Kramer, GCPHS President, who delivered remarks on the tragic event resulting in the officer's death.

Also participating in the event were numerous members of Marshal Schmitt's family, representatives of the Cheviot Police and Fire Departments, members of the Cheviot Historical Society, members of the Greater Cincinnati Police Historical Society, and the Hamilton County Police Association Honor Guard.

[Click here to read more about Assistant Marshal Albert Schmitt](#)

Membership

The Greater Cincinnati Police Historical Society (GCPHS) has, since its founding in 1998, relied on the generosity of its members with their time, talent, and financial support. Without them, we would not exist at the level we do today.

A visit to our museum will reveal our level of commitment to our mission: "To convey an understanding of aspects and history of law enforcement".

To ensure that our regional law enforcement history is preserved for future generations, the GCPHS needs to engage our communities more actively through increased membership. The financial support of our members thereby affords the Society and Museum the opportunity to continue with its educational outreach to those very same communities. The GCPHS encourages our members to become volunteers at the Museum or with other

aspects of the Society, but it is not a requirement.

The GCPHS is an all-volunteer organization that depends entirely upon museum admissions, memberships, grants, sponsorships, and donations for its operating costs.

A \$25 annual individual membership offers museum admission throughout the year, free access to more than 22,000 indexed archives for research, a 10% discount at the Museum Gift Shop, and a subscription to the organization's newsletter.

For information on how to become a member, visit the GCPHS website, inquire by email at membership@police-museum.org, or call (513) 300-3664. However, the best way to see what a membership offers is by visiting the Museum at 308 Reading Road, 2nd floor, Cincinnati, Ohio 45202.

Monthly Featured Museum Exhibit

Ed Zieverink, Curator at the Greater Cincinnati Police Museum, has announced the rollout of the Agency of the Month featured exhibit at the Museum.

In an effort to individually focus attention on the more than 160 law enforcement agencies represented by the museum in Indiana, Kentucky and Ohio, Zieverink hopes to create an educational and informative display at the Museum each month from the many artifacts, archives and stories assembled by the Greater Cincinnati Police Historical Society (GCPHS).

"We are a historical and educational organization", said Zieverink. "It is important for us to not only preserve that history, but to convey an appreciation of it to our members and the public. Although we tell the overall story through the many exhibits at the Museum, a featured monthly exhibit spotlighting an individual agency is an excellent way of focusing that history within the many different types of law enforcement and regions we represent."

The changing Agency of the Month exhibits will be featured on the GCPHS Facebook and webpage as they occur, but the best way to appreciate the full significance of the displays is to visit the GCPHS Museum at 308 Reading Road, 2nd floor, Cincinnati, Ohio 45202.

The rollout of the exhibit will feature the Covington Kentucky Police Department, with an anticipated unveiling on August 1st.

For information on the Agency of the Month exhibit, visit the GCPHS website, inquire by email at curator@police-museum.org, or call (513) 300-3664.

**The Museum is open weekly on Tuesdays,
Thursdays, and Saturdays from 10:00 a.m. until
4:00 p.m.**

Free and convenient parking is available for patrons
between 306 and 318 Reading Road. A Police
Museum parking permit is required and can be
obtained in the Museum Gift Shop.



Support the Greater Cincinnati Police Museum



Copyright © 2021 Greater Cincinnati Police Historical Society, All rights reserved.

Our mailing address is:

Greater Cincinnati Police Historical Society
308 Reading Rd. Suite 201
Cincinnati, OH 45202

Want to change how you receive these emails?

You can [update your preferences](#) or [unsubscribe from this list](#).