



MBPD Retiree News

"Unity is strength for a better retirement"

www.mbpdretirees.com



JANUARY 2012
ISSUE



Sam's Corner... "A Collection of Disorganized Thoughts"

Hello my faithful readers and welcome to Sam's Corner, the winner of the 2011 "best newsletters to line your birdcage with" award. This year, we are shooting for the 2012 "best newsletter to crumble up and use as packing material instead of styrofoam peanuts award." That would make me very proud indeed.

Happy new year to all. Hope your all of your dreams come true, even though we know they won't. Hey, I'm a realist what can I tell you? I'm sorry to be so negative but I said the same thing last year and I got screwed. Come to think of it, I said the same thing in 2010, 2009, 2008, 2007, and so forth...and, I got screwed. Ok, let's try this again and hope for the best. But all kidding aside, I do hope it's a better year for all.

I want to share with you, my readers a little bit of trivia about ME, since I don't really get to write about myself. (That's a lie, I write about myself all the time; and since I like to poke fun at myself, there is plenty to write about). Most people don't know this about ME, but I was born in Havana, Cuba. I don't look it and I certainly don't act it. My parents were Eastern Europeans who emigrated and settled in Cuba back in the early 50's (like a lot of Europeans). When the Castro regime took over, we were forced to move to the United States (like a lot of Cubans) and settled in Miami.

With this in mind, you'd think that I'd have the ability to speak Spanish like a Hialeah used car salesman, but I don't. I can and do speak Spanish when I'm forced to, like if I go on a call and no one speaks Spanish. My Spanish should be smooth and effortless, but for some reason I'm having a tough time with it and I don't understand why. I seem to get plenty of practice, but there's something in my brain telling me-"this is not normal". That's ridiculous; I live in South Florida for heaven's sake!

My opinion has always been that people who live in the United States should make an effort to learn the language. And what language is that? English of course; yet, time and time again I run into folks who have lived here ten, fifteen, or even more years who can barely speak English. This is very sad and I don't understand it. I acknowledge the fact that people who came to this country when they were much older were less likely to try to learn English because they really didn't have to or need

to. What about the younger ones?



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CELEBRATING MARTIN LUTHER KING'S BIRTHDAY

JANUARY 16th, 2012

HAVE A HAPPY AND HEALTHY NEW YEAR!

2012

Sam's Corner ... *continued from page 1*

People have heard me say that one can be born, live, go to school, do business, get a job, start a family, and do a host of other things here in South Florida without having to learn a lick of English. If you live in a place like Hialeah, you NEVER have to learn English. In fact, it could be a detriment. I'm wondering if there is any place in the United States or the world for that matter that has this unique character.

Although I've never been to Europe, I would venture to say that if you moved to another country, such as Germany, France, Greece, or Italy; I mean *move*, and not visit as a tourist for that matter (because they expect you not to know the language), you would have a hard time surviving in that country without making an effort to learn their language. I could be wrong (and I often am), but I doubt people would bend over backwards to accommodate a resident who refuses to speak the national language, and rightfully so I think!

Many folks here I've found, and I'm not trying to criticize Hispanics because I am one, (I like picadillo, ropa vieja, rice, beans, plantains, and yucca so this makes me Hispanic) have refused to make an effort to learn English. I find this frustrating because after all, we are in the UNITED STATES OF AMERICA. Let me just repeat that on paper, just in case you think it's a typographical error. We are in the UNITED STATES OF AMERICA. Is that such a difficult concept to grasp? I think it's outrageous and preposterous (two really big words that I cannot spell, but thank heavens my computer has spell check) that someone comes to this country and is able to get away for YEARS without speaking a lick of English. You don't have to agree with me on this, but I wish you would because I need all the friends I can get.

Allow me to give you a perfect example of the problems this lack of initiative causes. My family is staying with me temporarily after relocating from South Dakota. My brother has been out of Florida for over thirty years. Interestingly enough, he can still speak Spanish, but with difficulty like me. He decided that he wanted to buy a bicycle.

He searched online and found what he wanted at a major department store in Miami. He wanted to call to find out if the bike was there. I told him that he was going to get very frustrated. Miami is not like South Dakota; customer service for the most part is terrible.

After being on the phone for over 20 minutes being transferred over and over again, he finally gave up. What was the problem? The first "customer service assistant" (...and I use the term very loosely) spoke very little English and seemed almost incredulous that someone would have the audacity to call *her* for help and not have the courtesy to speak in Spanish. Hello!! He's not calling Spain! After babbling back and forth to another employee about the guy that wants to talk to someone about a bicycle, and being transferred three times, they conveniently let the call drop.

Come to think of it, this little customer service problem is not limited to language issues either. There seems to be a lot lacking when it comes to customer service; not only here in South Florida,

but in a lot of areas. I've noticed a lot of big retail stores have not properly trained their employees in "how to be nice and helpful". Do you wonder why some of them go out of business? One example I'll present to you is Wal Mart. People love going to Wal Mart, and they've got great deals on all of their Chinese made products. I try to avoid the place when I can but sometimes I do go. It can be difficult finding stuff there. There's a lot of employees roaming around, but I've never heard this "Can I help you find something?" Oh yeah, they'll help you but you got to ask. Yes I know I'm being a prima donna, but I'm old school! I like for employees in stores to show a little courtesy that way.



Some stores have actually gone the "other way" when it comes to customer service. Around here, when you walk into an Office Depot, they won't leave you alone. They actually have a "greeter" standing at a podium. The greeter, as the other employees have little professional police looking radios with headsets. They welcome you and ask if you need help. That's nice. If you do, they call someone over to actually escort you to where you need to go. That person too has a little professional police looking radio and headset.

"I would like to buy paper clips"- I said. "Yes sir! Just follow me." The little customer service agent specialist (that's what the tag says) escorts me right to the paper clips; and a nice selection may I add. "Anything else?" Yes I say "gel pens." Then I'm led right to where the gel pens are. Now I'd like to browse, and they go away...but they're right back 3 minutes later! This drives me crazy. Now I'm thinking, maybe I should go back to Wal Mart, because I just want to be left alone! I'm about ready to file a restraining order on the employees at Office Depot for stalking me. Does it sound to you like I just don't know what I want? Perhaps you may be correct.

And now I have to vent. The drivers here, they're getting worse and worse. Really? I'm complaining to you about everything? Why don't I just move out here? I don't know I'm just glad the holidays are over. No more Christmas music, no more ads about this sale or that sale. No, NOW it's AFTER HOLIDAY sales. You still can't get into the shopping center because people are still returning the lousy gifts they got and can't stand..and they're taking advantage of good deals for next year! They don't even know if they're going to be ALIVE next year; but if they're not, by golly at least they got a good deal on something that will be obsolete by Thanksgiving.

Folks, it's been fun and again, I wish all of you a happy and healthy new year. See you again in February!

Funny Things Said by Police - forwarded to us by "The Phantom", Gene Toreky

1. I'm sorry Ma'am, but with the unlicensed gun in your purse plus the DWI, you ARE a real criminal.
2. Hey John, get out of the cruiser and come over here to say "Thank You." We stopped the guy who pays OUR salary!
3. Yeah, I do have bank robbers to catch, but that might be dangerous, so I'm going to play it safe and write you this ticket.
4. Hurry it up? Sure, I'll just go back to the cruiser and write the citation. Do you have food and water in the car? This shouldn't take more than six hours.
5. Do you know why I stopped you, or do you THINK like you Drive?
6. What do you mean I won't believe you? Just because you've got three kilos of smack and two bodies in the trunk doesn't mean there isn't a perfectly reasonable explanation.
7. No, you've got that WRONG. I'm even TOUGHER without the badge and gun.
8. Of course you didn't DO it. You just happened to start your wind sprints in front of the department store, the VCR is extra weight, and the security guards were providing MOTIVATION.
9. She STARTED it? That's the best you can do? My four-year-old does better than that when I ask why his sister is crying.
10. HAVE A NICE DAY.

Revisiting specific acts of courage and gallantry by members of the MBPD

A series of articles written by retired Sgt. Sherwood (Buck) Griscom.

Buck Griscom has been kind enough to share with the membership some of his personal thoughts and stories about Miami Beach Police Officers who have been injured or killed while serving the citizens of Miami Beach. This month we'll start off with Moe Huddleston and Edward Young. Some of the accounts are a little hazy, so feel free to write in and add stuff if you'd like. (Some parts edited for content)

DETECTIVE MOE HUDDLESTON

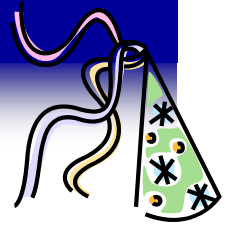
Wounded in Action, Detective "Moe" Huddleston (1947? 1948?). Captain Jesse Webb's recollection is: Scene was hotel in immediate vicinity of 6th Street and Washington Avenue. Jesse remembers it as a "decent" hotel. Moe was badly shot. Hospital believed he would not make it. Rookie Jesse Webb rode in ambulance to the hospital with Moe. Jesse stayed all night and all of the next day with Moe. Captain Webb recalls that Huddleston and his wife did not get along well. NO ONE ELSE RESPONDED TO THE WOUNDED IN ACTION HUDDLESTON. Jesse is certain that Moe's wife did NOT come to the hospital (so sad). Jesse did not remember if the bad guy was shot or died by police bullets. Perhaps the Miami Herald has something of the shooting in their archives. Interesting fact was gathered in conversation with Jesse. He clearly remembers for his first year or so on the job; 12 hour shifts-Seven days a week. April fool's Day 1957 when seven of us became sworn cops, we worked six days a week. Jesse joined MBPD on 1st February 1947. Anyone who can shed some more light on Moe Huddleston can certainly e-mail me and I'll add it to the next newsletter. My e-mail address once again is sam0444@yahoo.com.

OFFICER EDWARD YOUNG (Later Sgt. Ed Young).

Wounded in Action, Officer Edward Young—Super Bowl Sunday, 1971. Miami Beach Police received a call of a residential home invasion on Pine Tree Drive. Bad guy had two hostages. One was released at the scene as Ed Young arrives. Bad guy was "wheel-less", so he hijacked a cab to do his dirty deed. As Officer Young arrives on the scene, bad guy with his hostage cab driver flee north on Pine Tree Drive. Car chase goes up to 63rd Street and Pine Tree Drive. At 63rd Street, they see cops and cop cars have spread a net. Seeing this, he directs the cabbie to turn over to LaGorce Drive. Cab speeds south on LaGorce Drive, pursued by numerous cop cars. Pursuit races southbound, bad guy is in back seat, popping up and down. Officer Young's weapon is a "justice seeking" .357 Smith & Wesson (fully capable of penetrating a car door); so Officer Young fires into the cab's left rear door in hopes of wounding and disabling the bad guy.

Chase climax occurs at 42nd Street and Pine Tree Drive when a "world of cop cars" surrounded the cab. Cab driver exits stage left and runs for dear life. Bad guy is again out of sight, lying down across the back seat. He is laying in wait, to shoot and kill whatever cop comes into view. Fate and destiny chose Ed Young. With drawn revolver, Ed Young (a hunter) carefully walks up to the rear of the cab. Young aims his weapon at bad guy. Distance is less than four feet. Bad guy opens up with lead, firing multiple rounds at Officer Young. One round burrows into Young's arm. Young returns fire with JUST one round. Question we posed to Ed Young—"WHY just one round??" Answer by Ed Young?? "That's all I had left." Bottom line? Ed did not miss..

Bad guy is instantly DOA and is toe tagged at Medical Examiner's Office. Good news is? One 38 slug costs 40 cents. Trial would have cost tens of thousands. (HEY, Its the economy stupid.)



Miami Beach Police Retirees Holiday Party

The 2011 holiday party was held on December 10th, 2011 at the West Broward Hall in Pembroke Pines. There were 58 attendees, I was attendee number 37. The venue, which we've used in the past was very nice. It was a waterfront location, easy to get to, with ample parking and very pleasant surroundings.

Music was provided by active Officer (DJ) Chris Mitchell and as usual he did a great job. It was enjoyable see old friends, some of which I hadn't seen in years. The atmosphere was especially festive and everyone was in a great mood.

Everyone got a raffle ticket for a door prize with the option purchase another one. The following were door prize winners: Carl Ward, Dale Azcarate (we think?), Wally Neumann, Barbara Neumann, Sam Bejar, Don Sphar, Alex Bello, Bobby Jenkins, and Paul Marcus. Congratulations to the winners on winning some very nice prizes.

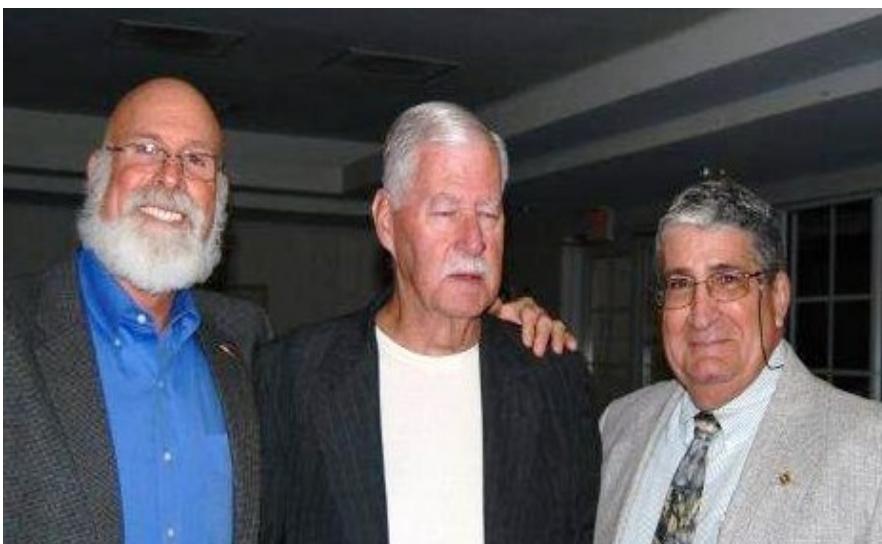
All in all it was a great time. Heck, I'm already looking forward to the 2012 Holiday Party!



Newly Retired (and svelte) Chief Carlos Noriega with (getting svelte) Bobby Jenkins.



Art Schickler & Sam Gam



*Bernie Winer,
Pat Ryan,
and Al Boza*

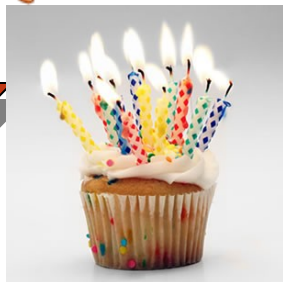
Miami Beach Police Retirees Holiday Party



Ana Adler, with hubbie Dean in background

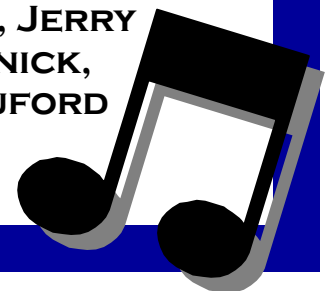


DJ Officer Chris Mitchell



january bdays!

BILL ARWOOD, JIM CASEY, JAMES CORBETT, BILL DAVIS, PAT EVANS, RON FORESTER, ARTIE GANZ, BRIAN GARDNER, MARK HALLMAN, THELMA JASSER, ROBERT JENKINS, PHIL KLEFEKER, TOMMY LEDERMAN, NELSON LONG, HAROLD MANGLES, JERRY MILLICAN, ED SANTIAGO, GARY SCHIAFFO, ALAN SKOLNICK, CATHY TIGHE, DAVID TRACEY, JOHN VAN VRANKEN, BUFORD WHITAKER, AND TEVEY WOOLFE.



News Capsules...

MIAMI BEACH POLICEMEN'S RELIEF & PENSION FUND BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Congratulations to the following officers who have been selected to serve on the FOP's Relief and Pension Fund from January 1, 2012 thru December 31, 2013: Robert Azicri, Alejandro Bello Lorenzo Han, Eugene Rodriguez, Amel Soto.

PATROL DIVISION PATROL STATS INITIATIVE

While browsing the Miami Beach Police Official Bulletin, which is e-mailed to me once or sometimes twice a week, I found this item in there. I thought that most of the "old timers" might find this fascinating. This sort of illustrates the tremendous technological advancements in police work. The first time I read it, it looked sort of like- Chinese, the second time I read it, it looked sort of like-Japanese. Bet you never thought it would come to this:

"Beginning on Dayshift Shift 0700 hrs January 1, 2012, Patrol Officers will no longer be required to complete the standard daily log sheet. The following new procedure will be utilized to track statistical information. At the end of the normal or overtime shift, Officers will be required to access the Patrol Stats Program via an Internet Explorer Link. This will involve entering stat totals for the shift worked by clicking "update" to post stats. Supervisors will be able to view these stats as soon as they are entered and run their admin reports as required. All sworn personnel will be required to log into PowerDMS, study the available PDF Power Point Training (TRN 038) and sign for the training in PowerDMS. If your name does not appear in the Patrol Stats Program, please contact the 24-hour Tech Support Hotline at (305) 604-2151 and leave a message with your call back number".



NOTICE OF DUES INCREASE!!

THIS IS A REMINDER THAT THE YEARLY MEMBERSHIP DUES FOR THE MIAMI BEACH POLICE RETIREES ASSOCIATION HAVE BEEN INCREASED TO A WHOPPING \$36.00. INCLUDED IN THESE DUES ARE AN OPPORTUNITY TO STAY IN TOUCH WITH YOUR FELLOW RETIREES, BE A PART OF A FINE UPSTANDING ORGANIZATION, AND LAST BUT NOT LEAST, HAVE THE PRIVILEGE OF READING THE FINEST RETIREES NEWSLETTER IN THE WORLD.

Charlie Seraydar has indicated that three of our members who do not use the pension deduction system have mailed in checks for \$25.00. I won't mention their names but they are Andy Caputo, Tom Ratner, and Jim Harkins. Guys, you owe us eleven bucks! Pay up or we're sending Vinny to your homes to collect!

CARL WARD

Speaking of dues, Carl doesn't have to pay them anymore. We are picking up the tab because Carl turned 80 in December. Happy Birthday Carl! You look marvelous!

RETIRED SERGEANT WILLIAM MACDONALD

We regret to inform our members of the passing of Retired Sergeant William MacDonald. Mac passed away two days before Christmas from complications due to Alzheimers disease. As of this writing, we still had not received in information regarding services. Whatever further information we receive will appear in the February newsletter. Our deepest prayers and thoughts go out to Mac's family.





News Capsules...

OFFICER JOHN J. McCABE

Congratulations to John McCabe, who retired on November 30th, 2011. We wish him the very best. I worked with John on the midnight shift and I can tell you that he is one of the last breed of the real "old school" cops. Good luck to him as he moves forward in the newest chapter of his life, retirement!!



2012 FOP AWARDS BANQUET



The Miami Beach Fraternal Order of Police has extended an invitation for all retirees who are FOP members to attend the FOP Award Banquet on Saturday, January 14th, 2012. The Banquet will be held at the Jungle Island Treetop Ballroom. It is free to all members and one guest. Additional guest tickets will be available for \$65.00. Cocktails will commence at 7:00 P.M. Dinner and dancing will follow at 8:00 P.M. The dress is business attire.

Please RSVP by Monday, January 9th, 2012 to kevinmillan@miamibeachfl.gov or call the FOP office at 305-534-2775.

GRANDPA CHARLES LOSEY



Congratulations to Charles Losey and his family on the birth of his first granddaughter. Presley Reese Ojeda was born on January 3rd at 9:25 A.M. She is 8.0 lbs, 19 ½ inches and has light brown hair and blue eyes. She timed it right because we were ready to "go to press" on the newsletter.

LORI FATA (By Louis Fata)

The following appeared on Facebook, so for those of you who do not use it, we thought it would be appropriate to share this message from Lou Fata:

"I always knew my wife would be a great partner and a wonderful mother to my kids...and I know with the prayers, thoughts, and support of friends and family she will be a cancer survivor too. Please keep her in your thoughts."

We certainly will Lou.



News Capsules