RPDONEWS

May 2011

LAW ENFORCEMENT WEEK SPECIAL EDITION



Welcome to this special issue of RPD News honoring the many officers, employees and citizens who worked together in 2010 to improve public safety and make our community a better place in which to live, work and visit.

This year, the Rochester Police Department and the Rochester Police Locust Club collaborated to host the 30th annual Awards Dinner on May 9, 2011 at the Hyatt Regency where nearly 150 police officers were recognized for their exemplary service to the community and the Department.

The evening began with a great performance by Bush Mango Drum and Dance group. The Rev. Sammie Drayton Sr., a retired member of the RPD, gave the invocation and the benediction, and

Jeremy Newman from WBEE once again served as Master of Ceremonies. It was gratifying to see the overwhelmingly enthusiastic response from the Department, our law enforcement partners, and the people we serve to this annual event where we pay tribute to the sacrifices and service of our officers.

This year, several new awards were added to recognize the Officer of the Year, Civilian Employee of the Year and Citizen of the Year. These joined a select list of elite awards presented annually to our officers for their bravery, commitment and excellent service. Officers honored with these awards serve as role models for their fellow officers, and help set the standards by which the Department is measured by the community.





While many of these honors are defined by the Department,

others reflect the principals and character of well-known members of the community such as the late Rev. Dr. Samuel McCree, pastor of Zion Hill Missionary Baptist Church, and the late Henry Jensen, retired RPD Deputy Chief and long-time Rochester Rotary Club member.

Every single day, Rochester police officers perform extraordinary acts for the service of others. On May 9th we had the opportunity to celebrate that together with the community we serve.

Congratulations to all of our award winners and thanks to everyone who made the Award Ceremony such a great success.

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BRIAN CALA RECEIVES OFFICER OF THE YEAR AWARD



Officer Brian Cala is recognized as the Rochester Police Department's first-ever Officer of the Year. Pictured with him are Mayor Thomas Richards, Chief James Sheppard and Locust Club President Michael Mazzeo.

The 30th Annual Awards Dinner marked the presentation of the first-ever Officer of the Year Award. Officer Brian Cala, who has been with the Department since May 1998, was chosen by his fellow officers to receive this extraordinary award.

RPD's sworn officers were asked to nominate an officer based on his or her actions during the 2010 calendar year. Criteria for earning the award included: dedication to the job and the community; having among the highest number of calls-forservice, backups, arrests, other assignments designated by his her platoon or unit; considered an informal leader by his/her peers; development of advanced skills and proactive details aimed at curbing violence, and supporting the department's goals and objectives.

A four-step process was used to choose the award winner, including voting by the entire sworn membership as well as vetting by a committee representing the Locust Club, Chief's office and a neutral party. The winning officer was announced at the May 9th ceremony.

Officer Cala joined the Department in May 1998, and was assigned to Patrol Division West in 1999. He has been recognized with several Chief's Letters, Excellent Police Service Awards and two Unit Commendations. Considered hard-working, self-sufficient and "a great example of what a police officer should be", Officer Cala is a natural leader who has served both as a Field Training Officer and as a temporary Sergeant for long periods.

According to those who voted for him, Cala has a vast knowledge of police work and goes out of his way to help others. "When I heard about this award, I immediately thought of him," said one supporter. "There are several RPD awards [but] this award I view as different. I believe it is for consistent performance and everyday dedication to the department, which is stellar [in Brian]. I know when I work with him, I see what I always wanted to be as a police officer."

On accepting the award, Cala said he was honored to be among the group of finalists which included Officers Nolan Wengert, Matthew Klein, Tim Gourlay and Aaron Wilcox. He also thanked his family for their support and sacrifices.

RPDINEWS

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RPD RECOGNIZES CIVILIAN EMPLOYEE, CITIZEN OF THE YEAR WITH FIRST-TIME AWARDS

The Rochester Police Department presented its first Citizen of the Year Award to Paul Berger for his actions in coming to the aid of Officers Daniel Brochu and Luca Martini after they were wounded on the night of December 1, 2009.

Mr. Berger is the building supervisor at 265 Driving Pk. Ave. On December 1, 2009, he observed two men entering the building and called 911 to report a woman screaming. When Officers Brochu and Martini arrived and knocked on the door of the woman's apartment, they were shot by one of two individuals who had assaulted and attempted to rob the woman. Mr. Berger ignored potential danger to come to the aid of Officer Martini.

The first Civilian Employee of the Year Award was given to Jessica Plumley. In 2006, New York State enacted new DNA legislation requiring that a significant number of offenders submit their DNA to the NYS DNA database. ID technician Jessica Plumley of the Technical Services Section collaborated with the Monroe County District Attorney's Office, City and County judges, the Department of Social Services and the New York State Division of Criminal Justice Services and created a procedure to train police officers on taking DNA samples from offenders. Due to her efforts, the Rochester Police Department has become a model for the entire State of New York on DNA collection.

Jessica was chosen from a group of nominees that included Patricia Colon, Laurie VanBrederode and Maria Lopez.



Mr. Paul Berger, with Chief James Sheppard and Locust Club President Michael Mazzeo, received the first Citizen of the Year Award.



Ms. Jessica Plumley was recognized as the RPD's firstever Civilian Employeee of the Year. Pictured with her are Chief James Sheppard and Locust Club President Michael Mazzeo.



RPD 2010 AWARD WINNERS

PURPLE HEART: Officer Michael DeCocq

DISTINGUISHED SERVICE: Officer Daniel Santiago, Officer Barry Herbin

UNIT COMMENDATION: PDW - 1st Platoon, SOD - K-9 Unit, PDW - 5th Platoon

COMMENDATION: Officer Kenneth Coniglio Jr., Officer Randy Potuck, Officer Kelley Lusk

COMMUNITY SERVICE: Officer Steven Kovacic

Officer Ryan Beyea, Officer LIFE SAVING AWARD: Michael Yazback, Officer Jason Roelle, Officer Marcantonio SanFilippo, Officer Joel Wittman, Sergeant Charles Zlotkus, Officer Alyssa Ruf, Officer Jennifer Carey, Officer Jason Vaughn, Officer Daniel Mesiti, Officer Mark Rine, Officer Anthony Delvecchio, Officer Randy Book, Sergeant Richard Delorme

HENRY JENSEN AWARD: Sergeant Stephen Boily

REV. SAMUEL MCCREE AWARD: Sergeant Norma

Marchetti-Smith



Sgt. Stephen Boily



Sgt. Norma Marchetti-Smith and son Ryan with Chief Sheppard and Mike Mazzeo.

OFFICERS OF THE MONTH:

January: Lieutenant Gary Moxley, Lieutenant Aaron Springer, Sergeant Ralph Montinarelli, Sergeant Naser Zenelovic, Officer Dennis Cole, Officer Anthony Mazurkiewicz, Officer Kelley Lusk, Officer Michael Magri, Officer Brent Newpher, Officer Dion Miglioratti, Officer David Lyons, Officer Mark Allen, Officer William Mason, Officer Robert Dinicola, Officer Karl Berg, Officer Matthew Webster, Officer Charles Burgoon, Officer Bryan Trombley, Officer Carlos Santory, Officer Laszlo Tordai.

February: Officer Anthony Delvecchio, Officer Randy Book

March: Sergeant Richard DeLorme, Officer Ryan Beyea, Officer Michael Yazback

April: Officer Daniel Santiago

May: Officer Ryan Hartley, Officer Robert Osipovitch, Officer Brandon Ince

June: Officer Kenneth Coniglio Jr., Officer Randy Potuck, Officer Kelley Lusk

July: Officer Jason Roelle, Officer Marcantonio SanFilippo

August: Officer Darin Maxwell

September: Officer Daryl Pierson, Officer Mark Rohr, Officer Brittany Jones, Officer Paul Helfer,

Officer Charles LoTempio, Investigator Scott Gould

October: Sergeant Charles Zlotkus, Officer Joel Wittman, Officer Alyssa Ruf, Officer Jennifer Carey, Officer Jason Vaughn,

Officer Daniel Mesiti

November: Sergeant Henry Favor Jr., Sergeant Mark Simmons, Sergeant Flamur Zenelovic, Officer Amy Bauer, Officer

Christopher Barber, Officer Brian Sexstone, Officer Ryan Hickey, Officer Thomas Minurka

December: Officer Mark Rine

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SERGEANT WILLIAM "BILL" MAHONEY, 1970-2011

It was with sorrow that the Rochester Police Department bid farewell to Sergeant William "Bill" Mahoney, who passed away unexpectedly on April 20, 2011, at the age of 40.

He was remembered by his fellow officers and the community as a great person and a great police officer. The newsroom crew at WROC Channel 8 recalled him stopping by the station frequently to say hello when he was working in the area. "He was so friendly that we gave him the nickname, 'Friendly Officer Mahoney,' said one of the employees.

Sgt. Mahoney was known for his strong faith, his brilliant smile and his devotion to his family. He is survived by his wife, Jennie; his three children, Shannon, Tom and Liam; his mother, Pat Mahoney; sister Tricia Gaiger; father-in-law and mother-in-law, Jack and Sandi Luehm; sister-in-law, Kimm (Joe) Wesley; brother-in-law, Bob Luehm; and several nieces and nephews.



Sgt. Mahoney attained his Master's Degree in Criminal Justice from Keuka College. A member of the Department since April 1993, Sgt. Mahoney had served in almost every one of the Department's patrol sections. In 2003, he was assigned to Patrol Division East. He was promoted to the rank of Sergeant in March 2006.

A member of the Rochester Police Locust Club and the NRA, he enjoyed many outdoor activities including camping, hunting and riding his ATV and jet ski.

For the past two years, he had been an active member of the congregation at The Father's House, where his funeral service was held on April 25. The Rochester Police Department turned out in force, along with representatives from several

different law enforcement agencies, to pay their respects to Sgt Mahoney.

"I extend my sincerest sympathies to the family of Sgt. Bill Mahoney, to all of his brother and sister officers within the Rochester Police Department, and those he worked with in our community. Tragic moments such as this serve to remind us all of the frailty of life," said Rochester Police Chief James M. Sheppard. "I am honored to have known Bill Mahoney and I know that he will be missed by all of us."

OFFICER RECOGNITION

The following letter was send to Chief Sheppard from Monroe County Sheriff Patrick M. O'Flynn:

On February 1, 2011, the Monroe County Sheriff's Office conducted a "mock" on-site assessment in preparation for re-accreditation by the Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies, Inc. (CALEA). Lieutenant Frank Di Primo and Officer Tim Wright participated in this assessment of our compliance and preparedness.

Lieutenant DiPrimo and Officer Wright enthusiastically participated in this process. They worked diligently to assess our compliance to applicable standards, and offered thoughtful and constructive suggestions for improvement. Their commitment and professionalism were evident and represented your agency in an excellent manner.

Thank you for your assistance in allowing Lieutenant DiPrimo and Officer Wright to participate in this process and recognize them for their commitment and continuous improvement through improvement through accreditation.

The following was sent to the Chief from Lori Yildiz:

I wanted to let you know how super one of your officers is. Officer Eric Smith literally came to my rescue. He went above and beyond his job to help me out. A few weeks ago when my co-workers and I left work, I found my car snowed and plowed in at a lot on State Street. Our security guard called him, and he came with his shovel and worked to get my car out of the lot. After shoveling and pushing for a good 20 mins., I was able to get out. He is to be applauded for helping someone out when it clearly was not his job to do so. I was so appreciative for his kind act. Please let him know how much he is appreciated. Many, many thanks to Officer Smith.

The following was sent to the Mayor from John Nitsche, president of WebTitle Agency:

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you, Chief Sheppard and the Rochester Police Department for the concerted effort in enhancing police patrols in the Cascade District.

As you may recall, we contacted your office by letter, expressing our concerns as they related to vehicle break-ins and individuals panhandling and accosting our fellow team members.

The outreach by Chief Sheppard's Office and that of others within the Rochester Police Department, especially Officer Vincent Agnone, has been welcomed and well received by everyone here at WebTitle Agency. The increased patrols have been noticeable and have had the desired effect. Since the increased patrols, we have not had any issues with individuals panhandling or accosting our team members, nor have we had any vehicle break-ins.

We greatly appreciate the efforts of our administration, Chief Sheppard, Officer Agnone and those of the Rochester Police Department. On behalf of the entire WebTitle Agency Team, we thank you for your time and consideration.

WE PRODUCE LEADERS

Over the years, the Rochester Police Department has developed a national reputation for excellence due in large part to the tremendous talent, commitment and innovative thinking exhibited by those who have worn the uniform of the Rochester Police Department. The "We Produce Leaders" series highlights RPD alumni who have gone on from the Department to continue serving the community in a variety of leadership roles. We hope these articles inspire current RPD members and demonstrate the many ways that the skills and professionalism gained as a RPD officer benefits the community for a lifetime.



Greece Police Chief Todd Baxter says that like many of those with whom he served in the RPD Tactical Unit, he has a "Type A" personality. Those who know him would agree that he epitomizes many of those positive qualities: decisive, service oriented, willing to put in maximum effort to achieve a desired goal.

Those qualities, combined with the experience he gained during his 22-year career as a Rochester Police Department officer, have been indispensable as he guides the Greece Police Department into a new period of improved morale and increased community trust.

Chief Baxter began his RPD career in October 1987 following three years as an active duty military police officer. He continued to serve in the reserves for 19 more years. At the RPD, he was promoted to Sergeant in 2000, to Lieutenant in 2003 and to Captain in 2007. In February 2010, he left to become Chief of the Greece Police Department, which serves the largest town in Monroe County.

He faced the daunting task of taking over in the wake of the former chief's arrest and the firing of other officers; those who remained were demoralized and the community had lost faith in the Department. Chief Baxter knew he would have to move decisively to restore confidence among his officers and the community. In the 15 months he has been there, the department has added 20 officers and promoted 21. In February, the department held an awards ceremony – its first since 2006 – to honor the accomplishments of the men and women of the department.

Baxter says his 13 years as a patrol officer on the streets of Rochester, his assignment working for three different RPD Chiefs and his seven combined years in the Tactical Unit, provided the skills and experience needed to accomplish his immediate goals for the Greece PD.

"As a recruit class counselor, I mentored young cops. With SWAT, I was continuously surrounded by great people with positive attitudes and the drive to get things done, people that I still call on today," Chief Baxter explains. "I did a turn as an administrative aide in the Chief's Office. That was not an easy choice because I was an operations person, but working for Chiefs Duffy, Alexander and Hickey was like getting a Ph.D in leadership and management."

Baxter has made changing the culture of the Greece Police Department a top priority. "They've had to learn to trust themselves and trust each other. I tell them they need to go with their gut and the 'golden rule.' He is also hoping to see Greece emulate the close family atmosphere that Chief Baxter experienced while at the RPD. "I want us to treat each other as family; we're a brotherhood."

NEWS BRIEFS:

BUZZ THE RED, WHITE & BLUE RETURNS ON JUNE 5

On June 5, 2011, members of the Rochester Police Department will shave their heads to raise money to make dreams come true for terminally and chronically ill children in the Rochester area. RPD will compete against other police, fire and EMS agencies to see who can raise the most money for these very special kids. This is the 8th year in a row that RPD members have taken the lead in making Buzz the Blue a success. Volunteers are needed to participate and raise money to send a sick child to Disney or to meet a celebrity. Get your friends, family and co-workers to sponsor you and then on June 5, you get a free haircut and picnic with some of the kids you are helping. Approximately three volunteers are needed to raise enough money to make one child's dream come true, and there are so many sick kids in the community waiting to have their requests granted. To participate or for more information, contact the Dream Factory of Rochester at Rochester@Dreamfactoryincroc.org.

NEW HOURS FOR PSB BLOOD DRIVE

The next PSB Blood Drive will be held June 6. In an effort to reduce wait times, the new hours are from 11a.m. to 4 pm. There will also be an additional double red machine, and additional staffing. Walk-ins are welcome, but due to larger turnouts, appointments are preferred. To schedule, call 1-800-GIVE-LIFE, or contact Lt. Dave Smith via email or at 428-9946.

FAST & FURRIEST RACE/WALK TO BENEFIT ANIMAL SOCIETY

This year's Fast & the Furriest® 5K/10K/1-Mile Dog Walk is scheduled for Saturday, June 11 at the Animal Services Center, 184 Verona St., Rochester. Last year, 199 10K runners and over 250 dog walkers participated, bringing in over \$28,000 in registrations, pledges, donations and sponsorships. This year, the event hopes to raise \$40,000 with the addition of a 5K race, expanded pet contests and additional activities for pets and their families. Funds raised will go to support the adoption, spay/neuter and microchip programs at the Animal Services Center. For more information on the event or to print a pledge form, visit www.VSAS.org.

RPD STORE OPEN FOR BUSINESS

A variety of items available for purchase from the RPD Store are on display in the case located next to the FACIT Office on the second floor of the Public Safety Building. Currently available are ceramic coffee mugs (\$6), stainless steel water bottles (\$12), and T-shirts, blue or gray in sizes Large, XL, XXL & XXXL (\$12). Just in are RPD blankets! All items have the RPD Badge/Patch logo on them. To make a purchase, contact Cheryl Hickey at 428-3652 or ch5847@cityofrochester.gov. Hours of operation are 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday—Friday.

REMEMBERING OUR FALLEN HEROES

Thirteen officers have died in the line of duty over the 193-year-history of the Rochester Police Department. We honor their memory by sharing their stories. Our thanks to Capt. Johnston for researching and providing the information.

PATROLMAN LEO L. KERBER APPOINTED – JUNE 1, 1924 9/4/ 1896 - 12/10/1961 BADGE #403



On Sunday, December 10, 1961 Patrolman Leo L. Kerber was struck by two automobiles at 5 p.m. on Goodman Street North near the intersection of Hayward Avenue. He died of a fractured skull in Genesee Hospital at 5:45 p.m. Ten physicians and two nurses worked feverishly for 32 minutes over the unconscious Patrolman Kerber.

Patrolman Kerber had been assigned to a City Transit Strike detail and was leaving after the Union voted to accept a new contract and end the strike. The intersection which was wet, is approximately 100 feet south of 511 Goodman Street North where the bus drivers and mechanics voted to end the 40-day strike against Rochester Transit Corporation.

Patrolman Kerber was crossing the street near the intersection when he was hit by the left fender of a southbound vehicle being operated by Edwin G. Lewis of 101 Gilbert Drive, Irondequoit. The impact hurled him onto the hood of the vehicle and cast him a few feet to the left, knocking him under the rear wheel of a vehicle being operated by Richard Wisniewski of 759 Norton Street.

Patrolman Kerber worked out of the old 4th Precinct Station at 480 Joseph Avenue and at the time of his death was assigned to Unit B, 2nd District, 220 Webster Avenue. He was among the first officers to drive a prowl car in the City of Rochester.

Patrolman Kerber was buried at Holy Sepulchre Cemetery On December 14, 1961. Patrolman Kerber's name appears on Panel 61, E-1 on the National Law Enforcement Memorial located in Washington D.C.