

ATTENTION TO ROLLCALL

Association of Retired Police Officers of D.C. Inc.

P.O. BOX 22
HANOVER, MD 21076
Toll Free 877-283-1065

Volume 22 Issue 2

MAY 2019



IN MEMORIAM

GAIL COBB

AUGUST 1950 -
SEPTEMBER 1974

Gail A. Cobb was born in Washington, D.C on August 17, 1950. Her father was a Correctional Officer. Her mother was a crossing guard at Kingsman Elementary School. In February 1970 she gave birth to a son.

Gail applied to become a Metropolitan Police Officer in October of 1973. She graduated from the Police Academy in April 1974. Gail was assigned to the 2nd Police District. She was assigned to foot patrol. She signed up for scooter training and attended night classes to learn sign language.

On September 20, 1974 Gail was alerted by a citizen that an armed man had just run into a nearby parking garage. She followed the man and confronted him inside. The gunman shot her when she stopped him. He was arrested by other officers responding to the assist her.

Gail Cobb died of her wound at the scene of her shooting, leaving her son, parents and fellow officers to mourn the loss of a bright, dedicated Washingtonian. Gail's dedication and devotion to duty cost her life. She was 24 years old.

Gail is a fine example of the best among those who served and protected her fellow citizens. She was the first uniformed Policewoman to be killed in the performance of duty in the United States.

Her passing was a tragic loss to her family, our MPD Family and the communities of Washington, D.C. May she rest in His Peace forever.

IF YOUR PENSION WAS REDUCED, READ THIS!!

Tom Hammett was drafted while serving as a Cadet with the Metropolitan Police Department. He returned to the MPD as an Officer upon completing his military obligation. He retired in 1994. Twenty years later the U.S. Treasury's Office of DC Pensions (ODCP) audited his retirement file and decided that his retirement was not properly calculated. He became one of many AORP members who had their pensions reduced by the ODCP.

Tom hired Bob Deso, Esq., who has represented many law enforcement officers and who was retained by the FOP/MPD Labor Committee for many years. Mr. Deso won a precedent setting Fair Labor Standards

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AORP BOARD OF DIRECTORS

PRESIDENT – Gerald G. Neill

1ST VICE PRESIDENT – Ed Reddick

2ND VICE PRESIDENT – Lou Cannon

SECRETARY/TREASURER – Janet Gross

TRUSTEES

Paul Angel (2019)

Al Kelly (2017)

Henry Banks (2019)

TYPES OF MEMBERSHIP

REGULAR MEMBER– Retired Officer

ASSOCIATE – Widow or Widower of a

Regular or LIFE member – not required to pay dues.

IMPORTANT NUMBERS

AORP OFFICE

(877)283-1065

AORP OPTICAL/DENTAL PROGRAM

410-337-7577

DC RETIREMENT BOARD

(202)343-3272 (866)456-3272

POLICE & FF RELIEF BOARD

(202)442-9608

FOP LODGE (202)408-7767

FOP STORE (202)589-1637

METROPOLITAN POLICE RELIEF ASSOCIATION

Al Kelly (301)758-9553

POLICE FEDERAL CREDIT UNION

Headquarters Branch

(202)383-1757

Main Branch

(301)817-1200 (877)278-7328

MPD RETIREMENT I.D.

HQ Room 4144

Derek (202)727-4183

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Act case for the FOP, netting thousands of its members millions of dollars in back pay and changed the way overtime was calculated for law enforcement officers.

Mr. Deso filed suit in federal court seeking to overturn the ODCP's decision to reduce Tom's annuity. In February of this year, the U.S. Magistrate hearing the case recommended approval of Tom's Motion for Summary Judgement to restore his pension to its original amount, retroactively to the date it was reduced. The magistrate's recommendation is now before the Federal Judge for her final decision. The ODCP has appealed the magistrate's decision to the judge, who will make her decision in the months ahead.

On April 3, 2019, the AORP Board of Directors voted to retain Mr. Deso to review the cases of AORP members whose pensions have been reduced by the ODCP to see if they may benefit from the Hammett decision. AORP Secretary/Treasurer Janet Gross agreed to be the point of contact for the collection of the Letters of Final Notice from the ODCP which were issued to every AORP member whose pension was reduced after audit. Mr. Deso will review the individual notices and decide if he believes each member's individual circumstances are enough to warrant legal action seeking restoration of their pensions. This will be decided by Mr. Deso on a case-by-case basis.

Upon completing his review of the cases, Mr. Deso will provide a legal opinion to the AORP with findings and recommendations regarding how to proceed. The options include pursuing litigation as a class action, or actions, for groups of members with similar legal issues, or filing on an individual basis if cases are not sufficiently similar. If Mr. Deso's determination is that some members' cases are sufficiently similar to be litigated as a group, but others are not similar, not all members may be recommended for legal action. This determination by AORP can't be made until all cases have been reviewed.

You must have been a member of the AORP at the time of your notice of pension reduction to qualify for consideration in this action. Please send your final notice of pension reduction which you received from the U.S. Treasury to:

**AORP
P.O. Box 22
Hanover, MD 21076**

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

BY G G NEILL

The Association of Retired Police Officer (AORP) has a proud history of service to each and for each other. This service has long included members' families and loved ones. Over the years I have belonged to many an organization. Few deliver the service we do.

It is difficult to hear the stories of members who have not left their loved ones prepared for their passing and no one is there to help. We have an excellent organization with a superior board of members who are known for their service in the police community. If you are a member, we are here for you.

In the past six months or so, we have brought into our family a financial adviser Chris McAllister; legal services Hannon Law Group, LLP; and an entertainment and travel company Griffin Worldwide Travel. We hope to continue to grow and fill the needs of our members. Got an idea, let me know.

I, like most members served on the Metropolitan Police Department. The department has a fine traditional of being one of the best in the nation. Recently, I attended a recruit graduation and I can tell you these officers were as prepared to hit the street as one can be when leaving the academy. The theme of the department is "We are here to help."

I also attend our local police memorial service. Many a friend, brother and sister have given their all for the citizens of the District of Columbia. It touches all when we know if it wasn't for a little luck and God's grace are families would also be at the ceremony to remember and honor our service.

As time graces us, we have locked away in our minds most of the bad moments in our police carriers and fondly remember the good ones. We the retired police officers of the AORP now have that luxury.

We have much still to do as we protect our retirement rights and benefits. I am sure that our strong organization will meet the challenges ahead. To the regulars on the web page, keep writing. To the members who attend our meetings thank you. We could not conduct the business of organization without you.

No matter where you live, we are here for you.

Respectfully yours,

Gerald G. Neill Jr. (G.G.)

DCRB NEEDS YOUR HELP

If you know the whereabouts of the following members (or their caretakers), please contact, or have them contact, Lisa Richardson, DCRB Quality and Compliance Analyst, at 202-343-3252 regarding their required response to a DCRB compliance project.

FIRST	MI	LAST	RETIRED
Mattie		Dunn	1989
Paul	F	Fitzgerald	1961
Theresa	M	Gately	1974
Norman	R	Gray	1980
Mary	H	King	2004
Mary	M	Lee	1993
Phyllis	Ann	Matthews	2003
Robert	A	Maxsell	1971
Ann	C	Mullen	1999
Alton	A	Petty	1983
Phyllis	M	Sczuka	2013
Viola	G	Snyder	1990
James	L	Stays	1991
Elaine	A	Thompson	2010
Stanley	J	Turonis	1994
Donna	I	Voellinger	1991
Charles	R	Wright	1971

COPLINE: AN OFFICER'S LIFELINE...NEEDS YOUR HELP

1-800-Copline 1 (800) 267-5463

Copline is the first national law enforcement officer's hotline which is entirely manned by retired law enforcement officers. These retired officers receive intensive training in active listening and bring the knowledge and understanding of the many psychosocial stressors that officers and their families go through both on and off the job. An Active or retired officer or their families can call 24/7 and be assured there is a trained retired officer on the other end of the line. Whether the caller is calling while on duty or off, Copline is strictly confidential and there should be no fear of calls to that officer's department or punitive repercussions if someone reaches out for help.

Copline was created with both the active officer and the retired officer in mind. Many times, the only person an officer feels safe talking to is another officer. When an officer retires, they take with them the wisdom and experience that only time on the job can provide. The part of the job that officers enjoy is helping, being there for someone, and letting them know that someone does care, especially if it is a fellow officer.

We have received calls from 40 states, many calls from retirees, as well as officers still on the job, who are struggling with many different psychosocial stressors. Other calls are from officers that have been terminated, don't fit into a civilian world and their departments, and other sworn officers have disconnected from them.

The highest suicide rates in law enforcement are in rural areas and in deep undercover operations. These officers are sometimes isolated from the ones they love as they take on the persona required to survive in the element they are working in. Being an officer brings with it an 8-fold risk of suicide over being killed while on duty. There is also a three times risk of suicide over on-duty auto accidents.

Additional stressors officers endure are a highly increased rate of separation or divorce within the first three years of employment and increased rates of substance abuse higher than the general public. Officers are exposed to more trauma in a day than many civilians are in a lifetime. It is said that 38-58% of all active officers have PTSD, but few are treated. This can lead to depression and suicide. Officers who are exposed to trauma have a 5-fold risk of suicidal thoughts.

Copline continues to need retired officers who will commit to a rigorous vetting process and answer calls for 12 hours a month for a 1-year period. The training is free for those that are asked to attend after the initial application has been vetted. The application can be found on <http://www.copline.org/resources.html>.

We need help spreading the word to get volunteers. If that is not something that you are able to do you can still help by getting the word out that Copline is available to all officers and their families.

For more information please feel free to reach out to Stephanie Samuels at Director@copline.org or call her at 732-577-8300x8.

JANET & GARY HANKINS STEP DOWN



At the October meeting, we said goodbye to Gary and Janet Hankins. Gary has joined Janet in retirement from the offices they held on the AORP for so long. We will miss you!

IN MEMORIAM

Since the last quarterly newsletter, the following members, or their spouses, have been added to the list of those who have answered their last Roll Call and have gone on before us. Our deepest sympathy is extended to their family and friends.

NAME	RETIRED	ASSIGNED	RANK	DOD
Thomas O'Connor	08/01/1960	2PCT	OFC	12/05/2017
Reginal Moore	03/25/1989	4D	D/SGT	03/10/2018
Robert Jackson	09/27/1987	CID	DET	08/13/2018
Edward Dowling	01/04/1986	2D	SGT	12/19/2018
Irving Rhone	11/01/1969	CID	DET	12/21/2018
Vincent Romano	09/01/1978	4D	SGT	12/28/2018
Edward Dahlberg	06/23/1973	Harbor	OFC	12/31/2018
Maurice Snoddy	08/01/1972	USPP	OFC	12/28/2018
Ronald Murphy	08/30/1995	2D	SGT	01/10/2019
James Radcliff	11/30/1969	USPP	SGT	01/11/2019
James Lukic	06/23/1985	Morals	DET	01/14/2019
Daniel Rhoades	08/30/1980	FID	OFC	01/23/2019
Edward J. Seymour	09/26/1987	5D	SGT	01/24/2019
Donald B. Greenway	02/28/1979	USSUD	SGT	01/25/2019
Darryl Harrison	01/20/1970	SOD	CAPT	01/26/2019
Homer Tutt	04/01/1970	TD	OFC	02/07/2019
William Fulton	11/30/1975	USSUD	SGT	02/13/2019
Philip Trejchel	01/01/1980	SOD	SGT	02/18/2019
Alfred Hetlyn	08/31/1974	4D	OFC	02/21/2019
John A. Costanzo	12/31/1967	TD	OFC	02/28/2019
David W. Harrington	08/31/1991	USSS	Agent	03/03/2019
James Young	08/24/1991	6D	D/SGT	03/06/2019
Harold Gipe	03/01/1969	CID	LT	03/07/2019
Warren G. Bisdorf	02/26/1998	Comm Div	OFC	03/08/2019
John R. While	03/01/1974	5D	SGT	03/16/2019
Jerome F. Brown	08/31/1976	YD	OFC	03/19/2019
Joseph Fink	06/30/1989	4D	OFC	04/18/2019
Gilbert Bell	04/24/2010	3D	OFC	04/16/2019
Francis A. Greenwell	05/10/1965	CID	OFC	04/22/2019
Willie Toland	10/02/2004	CID	DET Gr 1	04/25/2019
Richard Dadurka	05/06/1989	SOD	OFC	05/03/2019
NAME	SPOUSE		DOD	
Dorothy Shires	Henry Shires		01/07/2019	
Iris B. Dickerson	Robert Dickerson		02/03/2019	
Paula Franchak	Stephen Franchak		04/15/2019	
Mary Jane Cleary	Donald Cleary		04/30/2019	

NOTIFICATION OF DEATHS

No matter what your type of membership, please request your loved ones to notify the AORP upon your passing. Ask them to contact Joseph Roche 703-232-9695. He can assist them with the notifications that will need to be made; and, make sure that any money due your estate is located.

AORP MEETINGS ARE HELD THE FIRST WEDNESDAY OF EACH MONTH AT 7:00 P.M. WITH THE EXCEPTION OF JUNE, JULY & AUGUST. A MEAL IS PROVIDED PRIOR TO THE MAY AND OCTOBER MEETING FOR \$10 BEGINNING AT 6:00 P.M.

MEETINGS ARE HELD UPSTAIRS AT THE BRANCVILLE VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT, 4905 BRANCVILLE ROAD, COLLEGE PARK, MD.

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