

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE MEMPHIS POLICE DEPARTMENT

BEHIND THE BADGE

ISSUE
127



CHANGING OF THE GUARD





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Changing of the Guard

Submitted by: Officer Bill Kaiser

On January 31, 2016, Police Director Toney Armstrong, who led the Memphis Police Department as our TOP COP for five years, retired, ending his honorable 27 year career. During his time with the Memphis Police Department, he held many positions. Director Armstrong worked Uniform Patrol, OCU, Robbery, and Homicide and he held many ranks from patrolman all the way to Director of Police. We wish him well as he embarks on a new career as Director of Security with St. Jude Children’s Research Hospital.

However, his retirement meant that we were left with a void in the most crucial position of the Memphis Police Department. The Mayor announced his decision to launch a search for a new Director, but in the meantime, who was it going to be that will handle the day to day responsibilities as Director? Many rumors circulated and many were guessing who they thought would take on this position in such a challenging time and on February 1, 2016, Deputy Chief Michael Rallings was appointed Interim Director of the Memphis Police Department.

Interim Director Michael Rallings joined the Memphis Police Department in 1990 and has served in Uniform Patrol, Organized Crime Unit, Firearms Training Unit, Investigative Services, and the Training Academy throughout his 26 years of service. Interim Director Rallings not only brings a diverse resume from his police career, he is a military veteran, as well, having served in the United States Army.

Mayor Strickland, flanked by former Director Armstrong and Interim Director Rallings (cover), stated during the ceremony, “I have full confidence that he can carry forward this most important work of city government — and that’s providing for the public safety and retaining our quality police officers.” Strickland said, “We’re going to work in tandem in that effort.”

Interim Director Rallings hopes to continue the “great things” his predecessor has implemented, including community and data-driven policing and places recruiting and retaining officers as a top priority. Interim Director Rallings wants officers to know, that as Director of Police, he is still an advocate of benefit restoration. Congratulations to Interim Director Michael Rallings as he assumes command of the finest Police Department in the nation.



GIVING BACK TO THE COMMUNITY

Submitted by: Officer Bill Kaiser

Behind The Badge would like to recognize Officer James Walton of the North Main Station Alpha shift for his dedication to community involvement. Officer Walton is a member of “The Chive Charities” organization. Chive Charities, is a non- profit organization whose focus is to help first responders, veterans and people of all ages with rare illnesses and financial needs.

To date, Chive Charities has helped over 80 underfunded causes with over \$3.3 Million in grants. Chive Memphis has also held can food drives, and toy drives for Toys for Tots.

Officer Walton is one of the administrators of the Memphis Chive Chapter and his job is to help the group fulfill their drive to make the world 10% happier by performing Random Acts of Kindness (RAKs) and fundraising.

As a Chives member, Officer Walton also spends his off time taking the children of St. Jude to Grizzly games and other fun events around the Memphis Area. On behalf of the men and women of the Memphis Police Department, Thank you Officer Walton for giving back to the community.

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 with Work & Personal Issues



Officer David Gunther recognized by the 100 Club of Memphis

Submitted by: Officer Bill Kaiser

On January 25, 2016 Officer David Gunter was awarded the Jerome Turner Community Justice Award by the 100 Club of Memphis for his dedication to community youth.

Gunther is the founder of the Memphis Knights Youth Sports Association, and spends his off time mentoring to children through sports and working closely with the Davis Community Center youth.

He has made it his job for the past 10 years to teach these children how to “overcome and grow into inspiring and productive citizens.”

Congratulations to Officer Gunter for his hard work and dedication in giving back to the community.

MPD BALL CAPS IN OUR FUTURE?

Submitted by: Officer Bill Kaiser

At the request of Interim Director Rallings, two designs were drafted and a survey was sent out in early February to determine the best design. You all voted the second design (pictured) as the winner. Memphis Police ball caps have been approved and will be sold at Shapiro and Mid-South Solutions Uniform shops. The MPD ball cap will be optional for sworn and civilian personnel in uniform, and can only be worn with B and C class uniforms. Please refer to MPD Policy and Procedures 09-16 governing Headgear for more information. A different design will be made available to the general public for purchase as well. Stay tuned for future uniform additions.



WINNER OF THE VISIONARY VOICE AWARD 2016!

Submitted by: Officer Bill Kaiser

Each year the National Sexual Violence Resource Center works with state coalitions to present this award in conjunction with Sexual Assault Awareness Month (SAAM) in April, recognizing the creativity and commitment of individuals around the country who have demonstrated outstanding work to end sexual violence. This year Our own [Sgt. Ouita Knowlton \(Sex Crimes/DNA\)](#) is the recipient of the Tennessee’s Visionary Voice Award for 2016.

We salute Sgt. Knowlton for her dedicated service to the victims of sexual violence.

BELOW 100

- **Wear your seat belt**
- **Watch your speed**
- **Wear your vest**
- **W.I.N. (What’s Important Now)**
- **Remember: Complacency Kills!**





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