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Next State Board Meeting:

March 8, 2003
9:30 AM

Wingate Inn off
Harbison Blvd. in
Columbia SC.

Eddie Bush to Perform in DC

Eddie Bush was selected to perform The Thin Blue Line at the National Peace Officers Memorial held in Washington, DC on May 15, 2003. He will perform the song as the finale for the Memorial.

National F.O.P. President Steve Young Loses Battle with Cancer

-Grand Lodge FOP

Steve Young, National President of the Fraternal Order of Police, lost his battle with cancer and passed away on January 9, 2003, at the age of 49. Steve is a native of Upper Sandusky, Ohio, and a graduate of Upper Sandusky High School. "Steve Young was the finest of our nation's finest," said Chuck Canterbury, the F.O.P.'s National Vice President. "Though Steve did not complete his term, he leaves a record of accomplishment that future National presidents will find difficult to match. He forged an excellent working relationship with the Bush Administration and, in so doing, has made the Fraternal Order of Police the most prominent and influential law enforcement organization in the United States."

Every law enforcement officer lost a friend and a leader today. Our hearts go out to Steve's family and our prayers will be with him and the loved ones he leaves behind."



Canterbury to Lead Fraternal Order of Police

Grand Lodge FOP

The National Fraternal Order of Police (F.O.P.) announced that Chuck Canterbury, the organization's elected Vice President, would assume the office of National President, following the death of Steve Young.

Canterbury was elected National Vice President at the 55th National Biennial Conference in Phoenix, Arizona in 2001 and had previously served on the Grand Lodge Executive Board as Second Vice President for three terms, beginning in 1995. Canterbury is a 22-year veteran of the Horry County Police Department in the Myrtle Beach, South Carolina area and a Charter member of Horry County Lodge #12.

"I pledge that I will do my best and work my hardest, each and every day, just as Ray and Steve did. I will strive to honor their memory of service to the more than 300,000 members of our fraternity."

2002, a Deadly Year for SC Officers

The year 2002 was one of South Carolina's deadliest years with nine line-of-duty deaths. Only 1992, with eleven, had more. The year started terribly with the deaths of Dana Tate and Dyke Coursen from Beaufort and Dennis LaPage in Charleston. These were followed by Walter Floyd of Clarendon County, State Trooper Michael Rao, Trooper Jeff Johnson, William Bell of Summerville, Gene Wright of Berkeley County and Joe McGarry with the Myrtle Beach Police Departments. The year also included the traffic fatalities of Greenville County Sheriff Sam Simmons, Charleston City Officer Anthony Brown and North Charleston Officer Ernest Barnette.

May 2003 be the safest year ever for our officers. Be ever diligent to your safety and that of your partner. Be alert; be safe!

FOP License Plates Are In

Scott Stoller

By the time you read this we should all have our license plates. I hope everyone is happy with them. When Adrian, Art and I undertook this project on behalf of the State Lodge, we thought it was just filling out some forms and designing the plate. Not so simple, over the past two years we have had to endure writing legislation, lobbying Senators and Representatives, arguing with DMV, and most importantly learning patience. Perhaps most ironically, as of this writing, I, the designer of the plate, have not received mine due to some paperwork problems.

If any of you have not gotten your pre-ordered plate, please e-mail me (scott@gcfop.org) or call me (864-525-8661), and we will find out what the problem is.

For those of you that did not pre-order a plate, they are available at your local DMV field office (they were released on Monday 2/3/03). You will need your 2003 membership card issued through your lodge secretary, your current SC registration, and your current SC insurance ID card. It will cost you \$30 and you may be required to renew or pay an extra year of registration fee.

Please remember that these tags are for vehicles owned and operated by active members and their immediate family living in the same household. **These tags MUST be turned into DMV immediately upon separation from active membership in the Fraternal Order of Police.** If they are not turned in, DMV will work with the State Lodge to recover or suspend the tag. So, please remember to keep your membership current and in good standing.

Most importantly, please drive carefully while proudly displaying your new F.O.P. plate and stay safe!

Legislative Report

Donna Freeman

State Budget Bone Dry!

For all of you who read the newspaper, you have a pretty good idea of the state of the budget. Agencies are being cut AGAIN for the third consecutive year and state employees will probably have to be laid off. When your Executive Board and I met last fall, I advised them we would have to be creative on any benefit we wanted to enhance that involved money. We may not get everything we want, but we will give it our best shot!

Our top priorities, and I may not have them in the exact order, are:

1. Worker's Compensation benefit on heart ailments for law enforcement officers;
2. Increased subsistence deduction to at least \$7.00 per day;
3. The lawful right to carry your weapon outside of your jurisdiction;
4. Make it illegal for a private citizen to display, on their person or a privately-owned vehicle, a decal, tag, insignia, etc., and make it illegal to display any colored lights on their vehicles other than white, yellow, or amber;
5. Require violent felons' drivers' licenses to be coded and immediately recognized by a law enforcement officer.

We have several other issues, but the above are the priorities. FOP, the SC Law Enforcement Officers Association, and the SC Sheriffs Association are aggressively pursuing item #1. We currently have two bills in the Senate and are working on introducing another one in the House of Representatives. Because of so much opposition from other organizations to this bill last year, we felt it necessary to submit an amended version that will cover future law enforcement officers from the time the Governor signs it into law. And, it would cover heart ailments, not respiratory. The State Chamber of Commerce is the only objection at this point. The good news, however, is this new version should not impact the budget nearly as much, causing less heart burn for the General Assembly. No pun intended! A budget proviso has been introduced for the increased subsistence deduction. It has a hard road to travel since it involves more dollars. We are in the very early stages of the budget and could not guarantee it will not be cut.

Senator Jake Knotts (R-Lexington), a former law enforcement officer, has graciously offered to introduce several of our bills -- one of the heart bills, the "right to carry bill," and the "decal" bill. I realize it is important to all or most law enforcement officers to have the right to carry your weapons outside of your jurisdictions. There is an element of safety involved and crime knows no boundaries. I hope I can get this done for you this year.



Across The State

Tri-County Lodge 3

The Tri-County Lodge has been active the past several months. The December lodge meeting was held in honor of Summerville Patrolman William Bell. It was also our annual awards night. The lodge recognized fellow officers and citizens that performed beyond the line of duty. In January we held our 4th Annual Law Enforcement Appreciation Night on Super Bowl Sunday. It was a great success with approximately 170 attending. At our February meeting our guest speaker was a prominent labor attorney who answered questions concerning public employees and overtime issues. We are planning on sending several members to the National Memorial and are making plans for fundraisers to assist with the cost. Please visit our website at www.scfop3.org for more information.

Berkeley County Lodge 19

On January 21, 2003, The Berkeley County Lodge held a memorial for all the officers killed in Berkeley County. The families of Deputy Gene Wright and Trooper Jeff Johnson that were slain in 2002 were honored at the Memorial.

Special awards were given to Charleston County Sheriff Al Cannon Jr. and Charleston Police Chief Rueben Greenberg for their assistance during the week of Deputy Wright's death.

Lodge 19 has acquired land for their lodge to be built and construction should start soon.

Greenville Lodge 17

2003 brings a change to our lodge, while our officers remain the same; Vice-President Scott Stoller has stepped in to take the helm of the lodge, as President Doug Pursley has been activated for the next year. Luckily Doug will be stationed at Ft. Bragg and in Doug's words does not have to go to the "big sandbox" across the ocean. Doug will remain the President of record, but per our by-laws, Scott will assume his duties in his absence.

The Greenville Lodge # 17 continues to be active in providing our Safety ID System. With this system we provide parents with two laminated wallet cards with the child's information, a digital photo and a right thumb print, the parents also get a large card for home with the same information and all ten fingerprints. The entire system is computer based the photo is captured by digital camera and the fingerprints are captured by a live scan capture device.

We are currently working with Crossmatch Technologies to develop a more advanced system that will provide the same outcome in half the time and twice the quality. This new system will utilize a new fingerprint scanner that will capture all ten fingers in just three scans and allow live video capture similar to the way D/L photos are taken at DMV. This system will be marketed nationwide.

Once again the Greenville Lodge will be selling 2003 SC law books, custom printed for the FOP. We also still have some FOP Afghans left for sale. Please call Art Alloy @ 864-833-1013 for the law books and afghans.

Anderson Lodge 10

Lodge 10 members are excited about moving into their new building. Final inspection was last week and we can now use our new facilities. A 3600 square foot pad with a 2400 square foot heated building and covered patio on the rear. This is a new for Lodge 10 since we have rented since forming in 1976. We welcome all to visit us, our meetings are 2nd Monday of each month ' if your in the area drop by.

Charleston Metro Lodge 5

On January 19, 2003, Lodge 5 held a memorial in honor of slain Charleston City Police Officer Dennis LaPage. The memorial was held at the Brittlebank Park across from the Charleston City Police Department. Eddie Bush performed the Thin Blue Line at the memorial, which included remarks from clergy, friends and fellow officers. The memorial was concluded with the release of two doves in honor of Office LaPage and Meducare flight nurse Anthony Pirraglia who was also killed in the same incident. Lodge 5 is actively working to begin the construction for their lodge building. The Lodge will be built on Johns Island SC.

Twin Lakes Lodge 24

The Twin Lakes Lodge is proud to announce that they have a new lodge building on Hwy 176. Several dignitaries from the Holly Hill Area attended the Grand Opening. The building will be used to host lodge meetings and functions and also community events.

From the Executive Director

Mike Loftis

Since January I have been busy working with our lobbyist Donna Freeman trying to get bills written and sponsored. President Wright, Donna and myself had a good meeting with Lt. Gov. Andre Bauer. He endorsed our entire legislative package. I just returned from my first Day on the Hill with your legislative committee. I learned a lot was impressed how well the National had things laid out for us. And met with our SC delegation and or their aids and came away with the feeling they listened to us and expressed their understanding on our agenda and was mostly supportive on most of our issues. I am leaving tomorrow Feb. 18th to attend a leadership seminar in New Orleans and represent the State lodge at a State Presidents meeting on Saturday. I appreciate you allowing me to attend these functions to better learn how to work for you. Coming soon will be a membership recruitment endeavor through out the State. I may be asking for some assistance. Stay tuned. Thanks again for you support and don't forget to call your legislators when we ask you to. It works if everyone helps.

At Will Employment

Donna Freeman

Early in February there were two bills introduced termed the at-will-employment bills. The House version slam dunked its way through at a vote of 102 to 9 and landed in the Senate at the blink of an eye. This bill was introduced as a result of a City of Forest Acres police officer's lawsuit about her termination. She held that her employment handbook/manual was an "implied contract." The legislation eliminates a handbook becoming an "implied contract."

When it reached the Senate, it went through the committee process as easily as the House vote. The only objector to it was Senator Robert Ford (D-Charleston) claiming, "I'm a Union man." My only support in opposition was Senator Ford. He promised he would oppose it in committee and on the Senate floor. He can delay it, but he cannot defeat it completely. Another senator can make a motion to set the bill for Special Order that places it at the top of the agenda. With a 2/3 vote of the members it can be so done and pass. FOP is the only organization opposing

Congratulations to our contest winners

Name the Newsletter: Behind the Badge – Jim Clites, Walterboro PD, Tri-County 3 Lodge.

Name the Motto: "America's Largest and South Carolina's Best Law Enforcement Association" - Jerry Wright, State Lodge President.

From the National Trustee

Darrell Lewis

Last year was a tragic year for South Carolina Law Enforcement Officers because of the number of Line Of Duty Deaths we had. We also lost two National Board members that had dedicated there lives to serving you. National 2nd Vice President Ray Franklin from Kentucky was killed in a car accident. One month later National President Steve Young from Ohio Lost his battle with Cancer. Chuck Canterbury has assumed the position of National President and you should be proud of the job he's doing. The 2003 Spring National Board of Trustees Meeting will be March 21st and 23rd in Savannah GA. There we will be voting to fill the two vacant position on the board. National Vice President and National 2nd Vice President. Ken Rocks From Pennsylvania and our current National SGT AT ARMS has told me he will be seeking the office of Vice President. David Hiller National Trustee from Michigan has announced he is seeking the office of National 2nd Vice President. Patrick Yoes National Trustee from Louisiana has also said will be seeking one of the open positions. If you have any questions or input you would like to address with me about this or any thing else please contact me before March 18. In an effort to keep you better informed I am requesting that you send me your e-mail address. This way you can receive information directly from me, the Grand Lodge, and the State Lodge as it is published. This is the fastest way to keep you informed about Legislation, legal defense, and other events as they come up. A Grassroots Data base is the key to our success in Washington and at the State House. I can be reached at 843-569-3163 or e-mail sctrustee@comcast.net.

Website Gets A Makeover

The State Website, www.scfop.org has a new look. Sgt. John Blackmon, Hanahan Police Department, was hired to re-develop our website. The new website provides information on each lodge, email addresses of elected officers of the State Lodge, a very detailed fallen hero section, and a forum message board, and many other functions. One of the main features of the website is the front-page photograph. This photograph randomly displays members performing their official duties. Picture submissions must show members in good standing, be in good taste and display a positive image of law enforcement. Photos can be emailed to ltandccso@aol.com or sent to PO Box 62469, N. Charleston, SC. Please take time to visit the new website and find out all the features and information that is available to you. Any comments can be sent to jblackmon@comcast.net