

PRESIDENT

Alan N. Andrews, Lawrence

VICE-PRESIDENT

Wayne E. Furtado, Fall River

SECRETARY

Robert F. Diliddo, Brockton

TREASURER

Michael R. Kiely, Somerville

SERGEANT AT ARMS

Matthew Cunningham, Everett

CHAPLAIN

FR. Paul Clifford, Braintree

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

James Machado, Fall River



OVER 18,000 MEMBERS

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Alissa L. Burke, West Springfield
Joseph Vieira, Dartmouth
Michael Murphy, Brookline
James Albert, Holyoke
Corrina Carter, Plainville
Richard R. Pedrini, Arlington
James J. Dolan, Walpole
Donald B. Bombino, Cambridge
Mark P. Hester, Shrewsbury
Michael Paiva, New Bedford
James R. Guido, Revere
Eugene Dean, Springfield
Gary J. Quitadamo, Worcester
Douglas M. Boyle, Lowell
Jon Bailey, Waltham
Deborah Fisher, Boston
Gary R. Fontaine, Longmeadow
Mark Frenzo, State Police

MPA “Man on the Street”

Greetings brothers and sisters. It seems I'm off to a slow start, as this is my first MPA *Sentinel* column for 2018.

Words cannot express my anger and frustration. Initially, I was conflicted as to whether writing this column was too soon as we prepare to honor Yarmouth Police Department K-9 Officer Sean Gannon, who was murdered last night. Then I realized that we all need an opportunity to vent as well as mourn.

Once again, the criminal justice system of the Commonwealth has failed our police officers. Once again, a career felon has shot and killed a highly regarded, brave police officer.

Our thoughts and prayers go out to the Gannon family, the Yarmouth Police, and K-9 Nero. Officer Gannon was one of us. Like all of us, he bravely strapped on his bulletproof vest and his firearm and went to work. He was doing his job when he was gunned down, executing a warrant service on a violent, sociopathic scumbag with 112 arraignments on his BOP. We never learn. Officer Gannon's name is now mentioned with the names of Rose, Charbonnier, DiNapoli, Maguire, Ambrose, Tarantino, and many others who were killed in cold blood by vicious animals. Animals that can only be "rehabilitated" when they are put down. Right now, it seems the media and the public are on our side and they see the situation for what it is. But wait. Soon the maggot cop-killer will have his defenders and advocates. "He is a non-violent drug offender and feels stigmatized." they'll say. "He was turning his life around." they'll say. "He has anger and mental health issues but was off his meds." they'll say. "Everyone deserves a second (or 112th) chance." they'll say. **"Bullshit!" I say.** He is a rabid varmint, a vile piece of human excrement, and an oxygen thief who doesn't deserve to walk among us.

Of course, he'll get "Life". But it will be Massachusetts "Life". Which really isn't "Life" at all is it?

Today, in America and Massachusetts, our legal system makes police widows out of police wives. We can no longer stand for it!

After the Jared Remy mess, we were told the Commonwealth was getting tough on domestic violence offenders. This killer and a pile of excrement was the undisputed champ of beating on women. The system had a Domestic Violence trifecta; intimate partner, a pregnant victim, and serious injury. Still, he was a free man. The system is a farce.

Ironically, the Governor signed the Criminal Justice Reform bill this afternoon. If you haven't read it, the "CJ Reform Bill" is 100 plus pages of blather and feel-good initiatives that will do nothing to put maggot criminals behind bars (With the exception of Fentanyl/Carfentanyl dealers. We're finally cracking down on them.)

Some "low-lights" of this ridiculous piece of shi...I mean legislation raises the value for felonious property crime and larceny offenses from over \$250 to \$1200, eliminates minimum mandatory sentencing for cocaine dealing, and allows for felony and misdemeanor records to be sealed after 7 and 3 years respectively. But don't fret coppers, its "gets hot" on Procedural and Restorative Justice, as well as Diversion. The bill also addresses Bail Reform. Apparently, not enough criminal offenders are making bail, thus it would figure that bail needs to be more reasonable and need not impose a financial hardship on the defendant or his family. What a sham!

One positive is that ABPO Causing Serious Injury has a minimum sentence attached.

The Critical Incident Stress Confidentiality bill remains in committee. This is a vitally important bill for all of us, but for some reason the Chairman, Rep. Speliotis of Peabody, refuses to release it. We were hopeful that the recent news articles on firefighter suicide may spur this bill onto the floor. On the federal level, President Trump recently signed a bill funding Police Critical Incident Stress Support.

The POST Bill remains in committee. *The Globe* recently published an editorial in favor of POST standards and awe sent in a rebuttal Letter to the Editor. This bill gives WAY too much discretion to chiefs, who can simply pull an officer's certification rather than discipline them. We see this as an "end around" our CBA's, just cause, and Civil Service.

Spring has not really arrived but Police Week is around the corner. Check out the Police Week website. The location of Tent City has been changed. If/when the Friends of New England's Finest come out with info for their reception, I will post it on the MPA web, Facebook, and Twitter pages. Last year's reception was a wonderful event at the Affinia Hotel. The generosity and thoughtfulness of the folks at O'Neill and Associates are amazing.

I have to chuckle at our border enforcement. The federal government is sending troops to the border and the liberals complain. Then we're told, they have no enforcement authority. Meanwhile, a "caravan" of illegals is traveling up through Mexico to demand all the rights of US citizens when they get here. This is a "no-win" for our troops. Can you see the reports on CNN? Our soldiers mixing it up with women and children who have been manipulated into thinking they can just show up here. Back on December 7th, 1941, a caravan of Japanese planes tried this in Hawaii. We shot at them. Hell, we didn't even suspend *posse comitatus*. The famed Japanese Admiral Yamamoto once said, "You cannot invade the mainland United States. There would a rifle behind every blade of grass." How times have changed. Today, we'd let them land on our airstrips.

In closing, be safe out there, watch each other's backs, and continue to get the job done. There really is a silent majority out there that supports us and our mission. Don't let them down.

By Rick Pedrini
MPA Executive Board