



'Serving Those Who Protect and Serve Us'

PEACE OFFICER MINISTRIES INC

POM Partner Briefing...

We now have
our new POM
Bible in stock...

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request yours!

Next month
Chaplain Frank
Ruffatto reports
on his ministry
trip to Houston
PD to help dis-
tribute 2,500
POM Memorial
Bibles.

...THANKS!

The Renewed Centurion

is a copyrighted letter to our
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THE RENEWED CENTURION

December 2009

“Pulling the Pin, Sort Of...”

By Chaplain Steve Lee

On Sunday, November 29th, 2009, four Parkland (Washington) police officers were shot and killed in an ambush as they were sitting in a restaurant working on paperwork prior to going on shift. The slain officers were Sgt. Mark Renninger, 39, and Officers Ronald Owens, 37, Tina Griswold, 40, and Greg Richards, 42. The suspect, Maurice Clemmons, 37, was seriously wounded by one of the officers who returned fire in the surprise attack, but Clemmons escaped with the help of family and friends (they are now facing prosecution).

The suspect had a history of violent offenses, but over the years was repeatedly set free by politicians and a justice system that cared more for this obviously deranged animal than the safety and security of our citizens they are sworn to protect, including the child who was allegedly recently raped by Clemmons (Clemmons was free to murder the officers because he had been released on bail for that rape charge six days before the shooting), not to mention the children of all four dead officers who are left to wonder the rest of their lives why this violent repeat offender was allowed back out on the streets to slaughter their mom and dads who were just trying to protect and serve us all.

As is often the case in these instances (remember the four Oakland PD officers whose funeral I attended?), Seattle officer Benjamin L. Kelly, 39, later finished the job the justice system failed to do by killing Clemmons as Clemmons tried to draw a weapon. Clemmons is now facing prosecution in a higher court of law, where we have reason to believe that—this time—both his full sentence and justice will finally be served.

As is our practice with U.S. peace officer line of duty deaths, Peace Officer Ministries is donating four of our new edition POM Bibles to Parkland PD...

“Hey, Sarge, Merry Christmas and a Happy New Bunch of Reports!” Officer Mike Duncan slid his laptop off to the side of the table to make room for Sgt.

George Sanchez to sit.

“Hiya Mike...” Sanchez’ eyes automatically scanned the restaurant patrons as he sat down. “You hear about the Washington cop killer?”

Mike frowned. “Yeah... thank God they got him. Can you believe it? Our guys were just sitting there doing paperwork like me and some wacko who had no reason on God’s green earth to be roaming free on the streets does ‘em in. Never had a chance, even though one of ‘em did manage to put a well-deserved slug into him.”

“I guess I’ve learned to believe it over the years... we’ve seen it happen more

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Christmas Story Continued...

Chaplain Lee's Law:

"Life does not end on the street, or at the end of your shift, or at the end of your career, or even at the end of your shift—your life—here on earth..."

"...Always go home alive at the end of your shift."

than once."

"That's the truth talkin'. Goes with Duncan's Law: 'Just because you're paranoid doesn't mean no one's out to get you.'"

Sanchez paused and smiled at his aging friend. "I was waiting for you to say it—'Duncan's Law.' I've gotten to know you pretty well over the past few years, but I still don't know where the 'Duncan's Law' thing came from."

"What do you wanna know?"

"Ever since I came to District Two as a rookie, you always have had a 'Duncan's Law' for everything. In 12 years I never asked you yet. What's that about?"

Mike took a sip of his coffee. "I stole it from Kilvinski—'Kilvinski's Law.'"

"Who's Kilvinski?"

"Character from a book you child cops never heard about called 'The New Centurions.' You ever hear of it?"

"No."

"You ever hear of Joseph Wambaugh, former L.A. cop—dinosaur like me?"

"Nope."

"You kids today... it's the fault of our educational system that doesn't teach the classics of Western Civilization. You don't know your history either, I bet. I started with a department issue Smith and Wesson Model 19 four inch with fixed sights—bluing half gone... speed loaders were the most advanced reloading we had. Single stack mag Model 39's were still from Mars—departments didn't trust 'em and didn't want us using 'em. But it wasn't all bad. There were real cop cars we used to drive back then that

you children know nothin' about. Back around the time that lead wasn't just in your foot, but also in the gas. Back when they used to make really big, really fast, really loud cars. Cars like the '69 Dodge Polara Police Pursuit 375 horsepower big block 440 with 3.23 axle, 0-60 in 6.3 seconds, quarter mile in 14.3 seconds at 100 miles per hour, top speed 150 miles per hour, before they de-tuned, downsized and slapped smog on all our toys... commie tree huggers ruined everything. I got to drive an old Polara before they retired it, but even though it burned more oil than gas it still ran like a bat out of... Back then they had freeway flyers made special for CHP and LAPD. Had full roll cages and..."

"Come on, Grandpa. What's Kilvinski's Law?"

Duncan paused with a look of mock irritation on his face and took another sip of coffee. "Kilvinski's a character in Wambaugh's first book, The New Centurions. About a rookie cop and his old salt training officer Kilvinski who gives him Kilvinski's Law—Kilvinski's personal rules for street survival, which you may find or more likely not find in police training manuals. Rules like, 'Be civil to everyone but courteous to no one.' 'If a dude uses his fist, you use your stick. If he uses a stick, you use your gun... cancel his ticket right then and there.' I got a bunch of 'em too, like: 'I'd rather be judged by twelve than carried by six.' 'Don't step in front of stupid.' 'Be polite, be professional, but have a plan to kill everybody you meet.' And my all-time favorite, 'Always go home alive at the end of your shift.'"

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...Christmas Story Continued

“Okay, that explains it. So Duncan, you retiring this month, huh?”

“Yeah, pullin’ the pin, sort of, after 36 years, plus change...”

“Sort of?”

“Life doesn’t begin or end with the job, George. I know you know that by now...”

“Copy that, Mike. But man, that’s unreal. 36 years on the street as a line officer. Since before I was born. Guys just don’t do the street that long. They promote, retire, go out on disability, get fired, or retire, but they don’t chew asphalt for 36 years. How in the world did you ever survive that long?”

“Nothing ever interested me on the job as much as just working a beat. On a beat you do it all. And you see it all—the good, the bad, and the ugly. I call it my window on the world. I looked at the guys who promoted and saw ‘em doing briefings or sitting at desks checking time cards and hammering out endless memos on typewriters—another relic from the past we used to use before laptops came along. Along with carbon paper... Maybe I didn’t want the responsibility of rank and the headaches that went with it. Anyway, I came close to being a statistic too, but—you know the story—the Lord turned my life around like He did yours, and I got to have a few more years doing this job without crashing and burning yet.”

“Yeah... I know. Mike, I don’t think I ever really told you how much I appreciated how you helped square away me and Maria. I could have been dead, or worse...”

Duncan smiled. “You’re welcome, pard. Does that mean you’re buying my coffee?”

“You have my eternal gratitude, but, no, you still have to pay for your own. So tell me Mike, what’s your secret to personal survival, not just street survival? How come you made it in one piece all these years? What Duncan’s Law can you lay on your partner here?”

“Well, first of all I haven’t exactly made it in one piece. I had to learn a lot of things the hard way, and I left some bodies lying along the road on the way. My big regret is wasting my first marriage. Come to think of it, actually my biggest regret is shutting God out of my life when I was younger. Maybe I could have saved my first marriage, and myself a lot of pain, if I had listened more to God and talked back less. But that’s why Jesus came. That’s what Christmas is all about—Him coming to be and do the things we can’t do and be. Him coming to step between the ol’ devil and us—dying on the cross and taking the bullet that had our name on it.”

“So give me your favorite all-time Duncan’s Law for personal survival.”

Mike slowly smiled. “Same as Duncan’s Law for street survival: ‘Always go home alive at the end of your shift.’ Means life doesn’t end on the street or at the end of your shift or at the end of your career, or even at the end of your shift—your life—here on earth... Merry Christmas, Partner!”

**MAY GOD BLESS AND KEEP YOU
IN THE GRACE AND PEACE OF
THE ULTIMATE PEACE OFFICER,
OUR LORD AND SAVIOR
JESUS CHRIST,
SON OF GOD AND SON OF MAN,
THIS SEASON — AND FOREVER!
SOLI DEO GLORIA —
TO GOD ALONE BE THE GLORY!
AMEN!**

POM Update:

Beginning 1/1/10, POM will have a new Executive Director and Mission Support Coordinator.

Chaplain Frank Ruffatto (a former Washington D.C. area officer & North Carolina pastor) and his wife Terri will be taking up POM reins.

Chaplain Lee has been preparing the Ruffattos for their new role for 3 years. Both he & wife Elaine are excited to entrust these key leadership and support positions to this dedicated and dynamic Christian couple.

Chaplain Lee will continue to serve POM as a chaplain in a ministry support role.

This is a critical transition time for POM, as we grow and expand our crucial work.

Now, more than ever, POM needs your support...

...Please give generously this Christmas Season!

'Serving Those Who Protect and Serve Us'

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FORWARDING SERVICE REQUESTED

INSIDE THIS ISSUE: A New Cop Christmas Story for You

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We're on the Web
www.peaceofficerministries.org

Peace Officer Ministries Inc
—A 501c3 non-profit
faith ministry

Our Mission... *Peace Officer Ministries brings the saving and strengthening Gospel of Jesus Christ to peace officers around the world...*

Our Team Ministry...

- Builds genuine and unconditional friendships with peace officers and those who minister to them.
- Publishes Bibles, inspirational and educational books, and literature specifically for officers and chaplains.
- Presents annual national chaplain training course and local Police and Chaplain Training (PACT) Seminars.
- Provides national critical incident response, confidential spiritual care for officers, and prayer ministry.
- Promotes the mission field of peace officers to pastors, churches and other organizations and people.
- Coordinates national and international networking, response and referral to assist officers and chaplains and those who support them, and consults and supports officers, chaplains and agencies worldwide.