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Liaison, HPD Academy Officer Michelle Collard

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#### Volume 21, Number 6

# **The Alumni Volunteer**

Co-Editors: Andrea Schmauss and Mike Weingart Graphic Designer: Connie Marmolejo

# **UPCOMING EVENTS**

Monday, July 6 HCPAAA Board Meeting 6:30 PM -1200 Travis, 21st Floor

<u>Saturday, July 11</u> Region One – La Porte

**Tuesday, July 14** Citywide PIP 7 PM - HPOU Building 1602 State Street, Auditorium Plenty of parking in front of the building and across the street at the Credit Union.

**Thursday, July 16** HCPAAA Membership Meeting 7:00 PM HPOU Building 1600 State Street 1st floor Conference Room *Plenty of parking in front of the building and across the street at the Credit Union.* 

<u>Sunday - Tuesday, August 2-4</u> TCPAAA State Convention – El Paso

<u>Monday, August 3</u> HCPAAA Board Meeting 6:30 PM -1200 Travis, 21st Floor <u>Saturday, August 8</u> Region One – NO MEETING

Thursday, August 20 No HCPAAA Membership Meeting

Monday, September 7 HCPAAA Board Meeting 6:30 PM -1200 Travis, 21st Floor

**Tuesday, September 8** Citywide PIP 7 PM - HPOU Building 1602 State Street, Auditorium Plenty of parking in front of the building and across the street at the Credit Union.

<u>Saturday, September 12</u> Region One – Montgomery Co.

**Thursday, September 17** HCPAAA Membership Meeting 7:00 PM HPOU Building 1600 State Street 1st floor Conference Room *Plenty of parking in front of the building and across the street at the Credit Union.* 

Please check out and "Like" the HCPAAA Facebook page https:// www.facebook.com/ hcpaaa.tx



If you have organizational related photos and stories you want considered for posting, please email them to **hcpaaa.tx@gmail.com** 

See you on Facebook!

#### **Houston Citizens Police Academy Alumni Association**

Houston Police Department, Public Affairs | 1200 Travis, 21st Floor, Houston, TX 77002-6000 | 713-308-3200 http://www.houstontx.gov/police/vip/citizens\_police\_academy.htm

# IN MEMORIAM

### CPAAA's Reaching Out and Coming Together in a Time of Need

By: Andrea Schmauss, (Class 39)

It all began on May 19th with a beautiful email from Kimberly Hall, a member of the League City CPAAA. She wrote offering their assistance to serve in any way needed during the funeral for HPD Officer Richard Martin.

#### Excerpts from the email:

"In the wake of HPD Officer Martin's line of duty death, the LCCPAAA would like to offer the assistance of our organization. We know that your hearts are heavy with the loss of a blue line family member, and if there is any way we can help carry the load, please know that we are willing.

You are welcome to contact me at this email address with any ideas on ways we can help (meals to the honor guard at the funeral home, answer the phone at the Union Hall during the service, etc...).

We also understand that you may be flooded with help right now. If our assistance is needed later on down the road, please know that the LCCPAAA will be here at any point in the future."

This letter touched my heart and became the catalyst to a humbling and heartfelt volunteer experience. I immediately contacted the HPD Union to find out who I could speak with to offer assistance, especially in hosting a VIP room for all the Honor Guards in attendance. I was put in touch with an officer with the Honor Guard who was most appreciative and who in turn, put me contact with HPD Family Assistance who was coordinating the logistics around the service.

From there I reached out to our own president Abraham Guevara, as well as other CPAAA volunteers I knew personally. The response was immediate and passionate. Working together, League City CPAAA, Houston CPAAA, Harris County Sheriff's Office CPAAA-District IV, and Volunteer Chaplain Howell from the Harris County Sheriff's Office pulled together an impressive offering of volunteers, food and monetary donations. In result, we were able to host a VIP room for over 120 Honor Guard Officers from many agencies throughout the country, as well as two family rooms for 50 members of the Martin Family.

#### LCCPAAA (League City Citizens Police Academy Alumni Association) provided 7 volunteers, coolers, soft drinks, snacks

- Kimberly Hall
- Linda Keyworth
- Nancy Leon
- Sean McClintock
- John Nader
- Rudy Salcedo
- Chuck Thomas

#### Harris County Sheriff's Office CPAAA - District IV provided 5 volunteers, water and snacks

- Charlotte Cross
- Mike Cross
- Patty Hill
- Isabel Mendieta
- Orlando Mendieta
- Harris County Sheriff's Office Volunteer Chaplains provided 2 Chaplains and the donor of the food for 200 people
- Chaplain Shannon Bowdoin, Chaplain, Family Assistance, Harris
  County Sheriff's Office
- Chaplain Virginia Howell, Volunteer Chaplain Coordinator, Harris County Sheriff's Office

Not only did Chaplain Howell and her supervisor, Chaplain Shannon Bowdoin spend time with the officers, they also arranged for the family of HCSO Deputy Jesse Valdez III to donate trays of food for the Honor Guard and Family rooms.

#### HCSO Deputy Jesse "Trey" Valdez, III Family

The Valdez family generously donated food for 200. They commented that they knew all too well how overwhelming the preparations are for an in the line of duty death and wanted to reach out and pay-forward the kindness extended to them last October when their family member, Jesse "Trey" Valdez was killed in the line of duty.

#### HCPAAA (Houston Citizens Police Academy Alumni Association) provided 7 volunteers, all the supplies, soft drinks and snacks.

- Connie Savage Connie volunteered to be the on-site team leader. She did an amazing job not only coordinating the setup, volunteer assignments, food locations, etc., but in addition she handle several last minute fires such as balancing a graduation prep being done in the same room we were assigned to, as well as taking over the family room needs on the last minute.
- Annette Basey
- Bob Fash
- Kelly Fash
- Roark K. Russell
- Andrea Schmauss
- Dell Trahan

It was such an honor to serve and pay respects to Officer Martin. Equally an honor was serving with this amazing team of dedicated volunteers. Connie Savage remarked on the group . . . "They all worked so well together. . . When they saw something needing to be done and they jumped right in and took care of it. Thank you Kim Hall and the LCCPAAA for reaching out. And to each of the volunteers, "we could not have done this without you!"

# IN MEMORIAM

# **Rest in Peace Officer Richard K. Martin**

In an outpouring of support, over 3,500 mourners gathered at Grace Community Church in southeast Houston on Friday, May 22, 2015 to honor Houston Police Officer Richard Keith Martin. Martin, 47, a four year veteran of HPD, was killed in the line of duty May 18 as he was putting down spikes to stop a fleeing suspect. Felon Jeffery Collin intentionally ran over Martin while leading a police chase, and subsequently died of a self-inflicted gunshot wound.

Martin was a four year veteran of the United States Air Force, and had worked for two decades in private industry before fulfilling his life-long dream of becoming a police officer. Martin graduated 6th in his class in 2010 and rapidly rose through the ranks to Field Training Instructor assigned to the Westside Command Station. HPD reports he was the 113th Houston officer to die in the line of duty since 1860, and in keeping with tradition, his badge number is now retired.

He is survived with his daughter Cynthia and son Tyler.

On Sunday, May 24, Officer Martin was buried in Wanette, Oklahoma in a private ceremony.



Officer Richard Martin



# **N MEMORIAM**

### **Rupert G. Avriett - 1924-2015**

Rupert Glenn Avriett (Rup), 91, passed away on April 10, 2015. Rup was a native Houstonian, born January 27, 1924 to mother Vera Wanda Lappe' Avriett and father Robert Guy Avriett.

On Dec. 29, 1946, Rupert met Mary Elizabeth Fine (Becky). It was love at first sight and they were married on February 7, 1947. They were married 53 years, 11 months, and 23 days until her passing. Rupert and Becky were blessed with 3 children and 1 foster son; Mary Regan (Michael), Carol McArthur (Brent), Glenn Avriett (Kelly), Joe Hall (Phyllis). They were also blessed with 10 wonderful grandchildren and 12 precious great grandchildren.

Rupert worked for Humble Oil/Exxon for 37 years as a seismic geophysicist. Most of his 37 years were spent in West Texas. During his Exxon tenure, Rup gained immeasurable friends who became life-long companions and adopted family members.

A Member of HCPAAA Class #14, Rup was very community-minded and volunteered for numerous activities/organizations (Toastmasters, Citizens on Patrol, tutored elementary students, umpire for little league baseball). He received the Houston Police Department Outstanding Civilian Merit Award. Rupert was a member of Southwest/Westchase United Methodist Church. He volunteered in the church office, was a board member, and rarely declined any request asked of him.



Rup touched the lives of many people through his giving nature. In every aspect of his wonderful life, this man that God let us borrow for 91 years, never one time failed to acknowledge every person he saw. He ALWAYS greeted every single person with a wave or a handshake, which clearly defined the character of this gentle man.

He was laid to rest on Wednesday, April 15, 2015 at Forest Park Westheimer Cemetery.

Read more at: http://www.legacy.com/obituaries/houstonchronicle/obituary.aspx?pid=174619687

# Limit Identity Theft with Document Shredding

Document Shredding Fundraiser to Benefit St. Jude Children's Research Hospital

By Christopher Passmore (class 51)



A1 Shredding will be gearing up on July 18, from 8 a.m. until 12 p.m. at River Oaks Elementary School 2008 Kirby Drive 77019. The event will raise funds for St. Jude Children's Research Hospital<sup>®</sup>, the premier center for the research and treatment of childhood cancer and other deadly diseases.

For a Minimum of \$20 donation (per banker's box) we will shred all your confidential paper documents; box sized 24"x15"x10" or smaller.

## HCPAAA NEWS



HPD Chief's Citywide PIP Meeting "Positive Interaction Program"

For the month of July, our program presentation topic will be:

# "Northeast Patrol Division & Proactive Community Policing"

The Houston Police Department's Northeast Patrol Division will outline their aggressive proactive community policing stance by actively engaging with residents and stakeholders to enhance, strengthen the relationships and the quality of life in the community.

WHEN & WHERE: TUESDAY, July 14th • 7:00 p.m. 1602 State St. Houston, Texas 77007 (Auditorium)

"Hope to see you there!" - Officer James Sobota

Voice # 713-308-9079 E-mail: james.sobota@houstonpolice.org *ASL Interpreter and captioning provided* 



# **HCPAAA NEWS**

### What could you do for nearly 65 years?

Could you walk in every day and put your life on the line for a job that didn't see you as equal from the start?

That's what Houston Police Department retired Senior Officer Edward Thomas signed up for in 1948. He was fresh off his service in WWII, where he fought on the beaches of Normandy and in the Battle of the Bulge.

Thomas was HPD's first black officer, walking a foot beat from the Third to the Fifth Ward.

"Mr. Thomas was not allowed to attend role call with his white counterparts," said Houston Police Chief Charles McClelland. "He was not allowed to eat in the cafeteria, he was not allowed to drive a car. He was not allowed to arrest a white person.

"If he made an arrest, he got on a city bus and the bus took the prisoner and himself to the police station."

Thomas is a longtime friend and mentor to McClelland.

"I believe that people are placed in the right situation at the right time—to open the door for others," McClelland said.

Thomas has seen the department and the world change around him, and watched with pride as other black officers climbed the ranks. He was ready with a handshake and steady advice the day McClelland became chief.

"Without hesitation, I remember he said, 'Always remember this: Don't ever feel like you have to run over anyone, but also don't feel like you have to back up from nobody," said McClelland.

He's 94 now and a deeply private man.



He's never wanted to tell his own story, and yet McClelland says, "He is the most recognized and well-known employee in this organization."

Thomas retired in 2011 as the longest-serving officer in HPD's history, Houston's longest-serving city employee and one of the longest-serving police officers in U.S. history. Now the officers he served with for a record 63 years want to give Thomas a permanent place in history.

Next week, they'll ask the Houston City Council to name the department's downtown headquarters in his honor.

"He said, 'Chief, if you think I'm worthy, I would be honored," said McClelland. "And I think that we shouldn't wait until he passes away. He should see that, and he should see his name on the outside of this building."



One name to remember a history of "what he had to endure," McClelland said.

And to inspire a legacy.

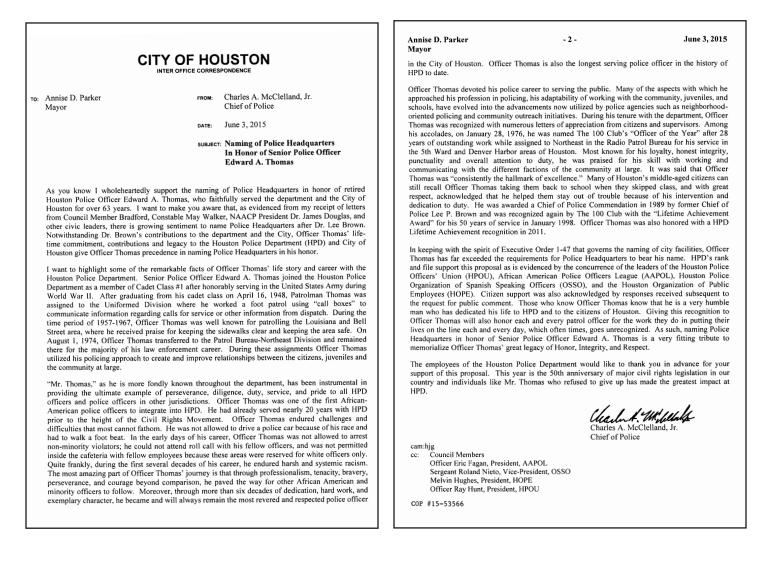
"We want you to have character, ethics, professionalism and maintain all of those qualities and characteristics in the face of challenges," McClelland said.

And to honor the right man for the job.

# HCPAAA NEWS

### **Naming of Police Headquarters**

Chief McClelland has asked that we reach out to our membership and any other community groups that we are affiliated with to write a letter to the Mayor and City Council Members in support of HPD Headquarters being named after Officer Edward A. Thomas, aka Mr. "T". Attached is a letter written by the Chief to Mayor Parker regarding the justification of naming the headquarters after Mr. T. We are not asking our volunteers or supporters to write something as extensive as the Chief's letter but at least a paragraph or several sentences in support of Officer Thomas.



The following are the email addresses of City Council members if you choose to send an email.

Brenda.Stardig@houstontx.gov Jerry.Davis@houstontx.gov Ellen.Cohen@houstontx.gov Dwight.Boykins@houstontx.gov Dave.Martin@houstontx.gov Richard.Nguyen@houstontx.gov Oliver.Pennington@houstontx.gov

Edward.Gonzalez@houstontx.gov

Robert.Gallegos@houstontx.gov Mike.Laster@houstontx.gov Larry.Green@houstontx.gov Stephen.Costello@houstontx.gov David.Robinson@houstontx.gov Michael.Kubosh@houstontx.gov jr.christie@houstontx.gov mayorparker@houstontx.gov

# MEMBERSHIP INFO

#### **Our Mission**

To bring the Houston Citizens' Police Academy graduates together to enhance the relations between the community and the police department. To share the values and guiding principles of HPD with other citizens and to improve the efficiency of law enforcement in the neighborhoods through shared responsibilities and resources. Members of the alumni provide a valuable service to the Houston Police Department in volunteering their personal time to enhance the overall delivery of police service to the citizens of Houston.

**Membership Dues** 

Membership Dues of \$20.00 is due each year on October 1st and may be paid at the General Membership Meetings or Board Meetings or mail to HCPAAA, C/O Houston Police Department, 1200 Travis, 21st Floor, Houston, Texas 77002-6001. Only members in good standing will be eligible to vote in elections and on other matters. Paid dues is also one of the requirements needed to get your HPD ID badge renewed. Graduates of the Spring CPA Classes pay 1/2 for the current year, with the full amount being due Oct 1. Dues for Fall CPA Classes will be the full amount.

#### **Volunteer Hours**

A minimum of 25 annual volunteer hours must be completed from October 1 through September 30 of each year, to be eligible to request your HCPAAA ID Card or renew your current ID Card. All hours should be turned into Connie Savage clsavage@cebridge.net . When attending an event and a sign in sheet is provided, please sign and print your name legibly. If your name is not legible, you will not be given credit for the hours.

#### **Member ID**

Requesting your HCPAAA ID Card or renewing your current ID Card, please complete the CJIS Form on the last page of this newsletter and email it to Officer Treva Mott (Treva.Mott@houstonpolice.org) along with a legible copy of your Texas Drivers License.

Dues of \$20 must be paid to receive your ID. In addition a minimum of 25 annual volunteer hours must be completed to be eligible.

### **Repetitious, But Necessary...**

These items will be repeated each month for those who missed them, need them or forgot them. Region One Scholarships are available to anyone who is a CPAAA member in good standing and is going to pursue a career in law enforcement or related fields.

**HPD Cadet Graduations.** HPD Cadet Graduations are quite impressive and colorful and HCPAAA presents an award to the top cadet. HCPAAA members are always welcome. Hours count. Watch the schedule of events for the dates. This is another way to show your support for HPD.

**PIP. Do you attend your PIP (Positive Interaction Program) meetings?** This is a monthly meeting that brings together the citizens and HPD for neighborhood interaction. You can find the location and time in your neighborhood from your local storefront, sub-station or command station. Hours count. HCPAAA Members are also invited to the Chief's Citywide PIP meeting on the second Tuesday every other month at the HPOU Building, 1602 State Street at 7:00 P.M.

Web Sites. The state convention web site is http://tcpaaconvention.org. The 2014 Convention was in San Marcos; and 2015 will be in El Paso.

**The Texas CPAAA state web site** is http://TexasCPAAA.org. Dues are \$10.00 per year. Dues are included in Convention Registration. The state organization has a newsletter that is posted on their web site. Region One is a link on the Texas CPAAA state web site. Region One's newsletter is posted on this link. The web site for the National CPAA is www.nationalcpaa.org. Dues are \$35.00 per year. The National CPAA newsletter is posted on this site.



#### Houston Police Department CJIS Compliance Unit



**Non-Police Personnel** 

Unescorted Escorted CJISID:

#### AUTHORIZATION FOR RELEASE OF PERSONAL INFORMATION

I, (print name) \_\_\_\_\_\_, do hereby authorize a review of and full disclosure of all criminal records concerning myself to any duly authorized agent of the City of Houston Police Department, Human Resources Division, and CJIS Compliance Unit, whether the said records are of a public, private, or confidential nature.

The intent of this authorization is to give my consent for full and complete disclosure of any records of a criminal nature, which will include but is not limited to information regarding; arrests, criminal charges, criminal convictions, and any information regarding contact with a criminal justice agency or any criminal case in which I presently have, or have had an interest or been a party.

I understand that any information obtained by a personal history background investigation, which is developed directly or indirectly, in whole or in part, upon this release authorization will be considered in determining my eligibility for gaining physical or logistical access to any Houston Police Department facility area or any system, process, or operation, whereby Criminal Justice Information (CJI) is processed, transmitted, accessed, or stored.

I understand that the Houston Police Department will determine if access will be granted based upon the results of the background investigation, and requirements stated in the Texas Department of Public Safety (Texas CJIS Systems Access Policy) and the current CJIS Security Policy. I understand that the Houston Police Department may implement stricter policies than the minimum standards provided by the Texas Department of Public Safety (Texas CJIS Systems Access Policy) and the current CJIS Security Policy.

I also certify that any person(s) who may furnish such information concerning me shall not be held accountable for giving this information, and I do hereby release said person(s) from any and all liabilities which may be incurred as a result of furnishing such information. A photocopy of this release form will be valid as an original thereof; even though the said photocopy does not contain an original writing of my signature.

Witness Signature	Signature	
Date Signed:	Address:	
Witness Name (printed)	City	State
Telephone:	Date of Birth: / /	Race:
Title:	Social Security:	Sex:
Name of Company	Driver's License:	State:
Tune of Company	Contact Phone:	
	Email:	