



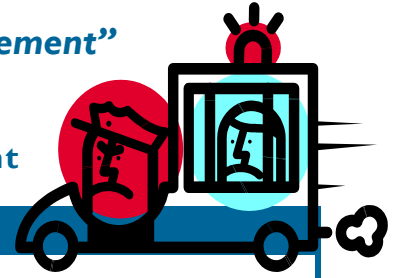
# MBPD RETIREE NEWS

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Miami Beach Police Department

AUGUST 2011 ISSUE



## Sam's Corner “A Collection of Disorganized Thoughts”

Greetings to all of my loyal readers and stay tuned for another captivating “Sam’s Corner”, winner of the coveted gold medal in absolutely nothing, 23 years in a row. Let’s get started, because I have a lot of information floating around in my bald head and I need to extract it pronto. If you don’t know, “pronto” is Spanish for “fast”. You see? I’ve already written 74 words and have not said one useful thing.

You’ve heard the phrase “it’s all fun and games until someone loses an eye?” Well, that phrase fits the recent ATV (all terrain vehicle) fiasco on Miami Beach. What a public relations mess. But even worse, people did get hurt. Seriously hurt. A couple of years ago, I probably would not have spoken about stuff like this. Too controversial; but I’ve been pushing the envelope and it’s sort of worked for me. I guess someone will let me know if I push too hard.

The recent “accident” on the Beach that resulted in two innocent people being seriously hurt was horseplay taken to the limit. Without mentioning their names, since everyone knows who they are anyway; and I’ve worked with

these guys, I’ve got to stay three things: Stupid, Stupid, and Stupid. But you know what? At the last Vinny’s Breakfast, we kicked it around, and we came up with some things. We, at least the group I was with fondly recalled “stuff” that we did “back in the day”. Some of that stuff, although not as bad as the ATV incident could be called stupid, stupid, stupid. We collectively came to a conclusion. We were lucky, lucky, and lucky.

Am I going to say those guys don’t deserve what they’re getting? Absolutely not. Another saying- “You play, you pay”. Many, not all of us did things that perhaps were not proud of. Things that young (and sometimes older) immature (at times) cops do. Yes, it was a different era then. It was an era before cameras, cell phones, and the only businesses that had surveillance equipment was say, banks. Attitudes were different too; and, we didn’t put our business on the “street” so to speak. But nevertheless, there was horseplay involved. Nobody got hurt, at least not that I know of. It was still wrong and we were lucky. So, are some of you probably saying by

now- “shut up Sam, that’s enough.” Ok, I can hear you from over there. Hey, I never said what transpired and I never will...Here. Those who know, know. But, we made it through the storm, blew off some steam, and now hopefully we are wiser.

I do wish those guys the best. They will suffer but they will survive. Their victims will survive too, but much damage has been done. My contacts over at the Beach tell me that there is a “shakeup” in progress, fallout from this that will last for years. Hammers are being dropped all over the place and things are not a lot of fun right now. That being said, I believe that although the job is dangerous, and stressful, it should also be fun. There should be periods of light-heartedness. But that’s not happening. My opinion and mine only...Don’t punish the entire department for the sins of a few. There are indicators that the powers in charge (City Hall and Police Department) are going a little overboard with certain things. But, I’m not in charge of the place and I never will be. I’m sure those that are know what they’re doing; and perhaps they’re not concerned

Continued on pg 2

### Inside this issue:

Sam’s Corner	1-2
Some Powerful Thoughts & August B-Days	3
News Capsules	4
Tribute to Sgt. Richard Izzo	5
Memorial Day Weekend Follow Up Letter	6
Hurricane Safety Tips	7
Ads/Sponsors	8

## VINNY’S BREAKFAST

On July 22, 2011, a breakfast was held at Blue Moon Diner in Cooper City with 15 people attending. Retirees attending were Vinny Aprile, Don Freeman, Alan Skolnick, Jim Burnette, Bobby Bauer, Rocco DeLeo,

Eddie Bason, Sam Gam, Carl Ward, Pat Ryan, Carlos Devarona, Tony Sammarco, active Officer Pat Quinlan, retired firefighter Tom Columbano and Gil Novack who worked in City Shops.



## Sam's Corner "A Collection of Disorganized Thoughts"

Continued from page 1

about folks being unhappy. If they are, they're not showing it.

Now, I've worked there long enough, and I *think* I know what works and what doesn't. I'm speaking to nobody in particular. You might say I'm "thinking out loud." Really guys, was the entire police department riding on those ATV's? No. It was two guys. I'll say it again...Two guys! They are being punished. They were fired. One was arrested. Move on. Many officers that night were doing their jobs. Many others were at home, sleeping. The rest were of no consequence. Why piss off and alienate the entire department? Exactly what message are you trying to send out? I'd really like to know, just for, you know "s—ts and giggles." Hang in there guys and gals. There's yet another saying- "It's always darkest before the dawn." The storm will pass and the sun will come out again. I guarantee it.

I was fortunate enough to be home the evening of July 4<sup>th</sup>, better known as Independence Day. For about two weeks prior to July 4<sup>th</sup>, some of my



knucklehead neighbors decided that they wanted to try out their new fireworks. Every single day. I haven't purchased fireworks in years. Why should I, there are enough in my neighborhood to blow up Afghanistan. Hey! Not a bad idea. Anyhow, nowadays, one can purchase really good quality stuff, almost professional grade that looks good. The City of Sunrise had their annual fireworks display a few blocks away, but I didn't need to go. I had all the entertainment I needed right there on my street; so, I dragged a patio chair out to the front and sat right there on my driveway to watch the show,

and boy what a show it was. As the sun started to dip down and the sky turned dark, I was surrounded by private fireworks displays everywhere. I'm not talking about poppers and sparklers, no sir-ee. I'm talking about very good (and probably expensive) mortar type shells exploding into an array of colorful blossoms, along with the requisite "boom."

I was turning my head so often and furiously, that my neck hurt by the end of the night. As I watched all of those beautiful fireworks exploding in the air around me, saw my neighbors partying and running around with sparklers while enjoying the relatively warm but nice evening I realized something, these are some of the times we take for granted. I also realized what a great country this is, and how fortunate I am to be living in the USA (sorry Cal Lincoln, I'm sure Nicaragua is a nice place too). As screwed up as this country is right now, there is no place I would rather be. Hopefully, I'll be off next 4<sup>th</sup> of July. Heck, I may even spend some money and buy some of my own fireworks!

This next piece is not for the ladies. So if you are one, turn the page or put this newsletter on the table...face down. Guys, I want to talk about something that's been really bothering me. It's not something that happened to me, it happened to someone else. When I think about it, it makes me cringe. In early July, 48 year old Catherine Becker of Garden Grove, California made her 51 year old husband a nice dinner. I thought that was nice considering they're in the midst of a divorce. Her husband started to not feel well and decided to lie down for awhile. Big mistake! He passed out at which time she tied his hands and feet to the bed.

Sweet Catherine took a large

knife and proceeded to cut off his penis as he woke up; so the poor guy felt everything. Now she could have thrown it out like Lorena Bobbitt did a few years

**Woman arrested for cutting off husband's penis, puts it in garbage disposal!**



ago so the doctors could at least sew it back on. No, not this one, this crazy idiot put the penis in the garbage disposal and turned it on, effectively ruining the "member." She called 911 and reported a medical emergency. No kidding! They found the poor dude bleeding severely. She admitted to it and was arrested on a host of charges. She is being held on a million dollars bail.

I ask you. What kind of sick, demented, maniac could do that to a man. I can't fathom it. You know, without getting too much into this and possibly getting myself in trouble, I've gotta tell you, I'm beside myself. Any man will tell you, their penis is, well basically their life. You can take everything away from a man. His job, his house, car, wife (some would appreciate that, unfortunately), his money, clothes, etc.. But, don't ever, ever take a man's penis.

Geez I hope I'm not offending anyone. Well, I shouldn't be; after all, I did say only men were allowed to read this. You know the penis, in my humble opinion is a life force onto itself. It's the stuff that dreams are made of. It creates life, sometimes it's responsible for ending lives, especially if the wrong person finds out it's been "naughty." Sometimes people fight over it, especially if it's really useful.

I'm not going to say it defines

who we are. Well, maybe it does I don't know. It makes us happy, can make us sad, it goes with us wherever we go. Our little buddy. Sometimes a big buddy..If you're lucky. We control where it goes but sometimes it has a mind of its own and tends to try to get us in trouble. We always forgive it because it's part of the family. Sometimes we try to deny using it, but we always defend it.

Little soldier that it is, it occasionally wants to stand at attention when we don't want it to, although it really doesn't know what it's saluting. This happened a lot when we were younger, not so much anymore. Other times, when we want it to be patriotic and salute... something, it wants to be unpatriotic and un-American, and refuses to salute. There are pills however that can bring that spirit back to it.

Now you know how passionate I feel about this, and I'm certain you feel the same way. If you don't, I don't want to hear about it. The moral of the story, if you're fighting with your significant other, don't let her make you dinner. If you do and get sleepy afterwards, lock the bedroom door and put the dresser up to it.

In closing, I want to thank Dean Mielke. His nice comments regarding the newsletter got back to me and I want to say I really appreciate those. I have gotten other nice feedback from people and it always makes my day.

And last but not least, I ran into Retired Motorman Dave Tracy at the HESS gas in North Bay Village and he told me that Retired Sgt. Ed Avila is now a grandpa. Congratulations Eddie! See you all next month!

**Some Powerful Thoughts... By: Tommy Moran**

**THIS CARTOON SHOULD BE POSTED IN EVERY SCHOOL IN THE USA!  
E-MAILED BY ACTIVE DUTY SIU DETECTIVE MANNY CHORENS**

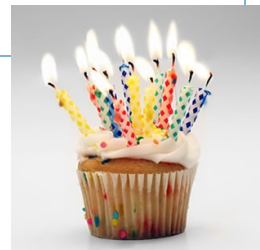


We owe everything to our military. We see so many, lazy, low life idiots today willing to put a gun in their pocket and prey upon the people who feed them but only a select few who are willing to pick up a rifle and put their life on the line to defend them. Removing traditions from the lives of our young people that made this country great, like the Pledge of Allegiance, like prayer in the schools, hard work, respect, competition, and responsibility is certainly sure to expand our growing population of Americas Idiots.

Manny you are right, this is a great cartoon and I'm glad that you were not part of all the gun battles that took place on Memorial Day or should I say "Hip Hop Weekend" or is it "Urban Weekend" or does anybody even know what it was?! Keep your head down brother, you are a short timer in that uniform. Say hello to all my old S.I.U. buddies.

*Note: Tommy's group is having a reunion at the Hillcrest Country Club on Tuesday, August 16, 2011. There is NO ADMISSION, it's a full bar and great food available. They are possibly going to put out a \$9.99 buffet. This will be the first time the original singers and the original band have been together in over two years. No rehearsal, just gonna get there and Rock & Roll (seeing how much we can remember). The Hillcrest Country Club is located at 4600 Hillcrest Drive, Hollywood, Florida. Anyone who is interested can call Tommy Moran at (786) 367-9951 or e-mail him at tomran2223@bellsouth.com.*

**HAPPY BIRTHDAY AUGUST...**



*Dean Adler  
Drew Bunnell  
Rocco DeLeo  
Ed Feigenblatt  
Billy Guillem  
Sandy Kohan  
Forrest Lake  
William H. Lamb*

*George Lerra  
Gerry Mackey  
Paul Marcus  
Kenny Miller  
Chris Pallis  
Sonia Puckett  
Artie Schickler  
Alan Seres*

*Pete Smolyanski  
Don Sphar Jr.  
Keith Strickland  
Jack Tighe  
Dale Twist  
John Umano  
Charlie Weaver  
Fred Wooldridge*



## News Capsules plus MBPD

Today!



### PROMOTIONS!

Well, not all news at the Beach Police is bad these days! A promotional ceremony was held on Friday, August 5, 2011, at 5:00 p.m. in the Community Room of Police Headquarters. The following personnel were promoted by Chief Noriega:

#### FROM:

Lt. D. De La Espriella  
Sgt. Samir Guerrero  
Sgt. Wayne Jones  
Officer Michael Veski  
Officer Christi Tanner

#### TO:

Captain D. De La Espriella  
Lt. Samir Guerrero  
Lt. Wayne Jones  
Sgt. Michael Veski  
Sgt. Christi Tanner

The Miami Beach Police Retiree's Association congratulates these fine employees and wishes them well in their new assignments.

### JIM BLITCH

A big "happy birthday" goes to Retired Sgt. Jimmy Blicht! Jim turned 80, and as such, his dues are waived; however, he must start paying dues again when he turns 100. Jim wrote me a commendation about 28 years ago that was so good, I take it out and read it from time to time. Thanks Jimmy, you're the best!



### RETIREMENTS

Two more of MBPD's finest have retired and will hopefully be joining our organization soon. Congratulations to Sergeant David E. Porter and Police Officer William L. Sinkes. Wishing you guys a happy and carefree retirement! **Hope to see you at the next "Vinny's Breakfast."**

### CHIEF TOM HUNKER

Congratulations to retired Lt. Tom Hunker for winning the "Fred Maas Outstanding Leadership Award" at the recent PBA Awards Gala, a huge event held yearly to honor outstanding citizens and PBA Members. Also receiving that award was Miami Dade Police Director James Loftus. Tom was honored for "his willingness to always help law enforcement's cause." Tom has been Chief of the Bal Harbour Police Department since 2004. I was supposed to get an award for "The Greatest Police Retirees Newsletter Editor in the World", but my car broke down and I couldn't make it; regardless, let me just congratulate Tom on a first-class achievement!

*Chief Tom Hunker with newly hired Bal Harbour Officer, Andy Kuncas.*

*Andy recently retired from MBPD.*



## More News Capsules ... SGT. RICHARD IZZO (1935-2011)

And on a sad note, retired Sgt. Richard Alan Izzo died Friday, July 23, 2011 at 8:40 a.m. at Kindred Hospital, Hollywood, Florida. A Memorial Service was held at Miramar Lutheran Church in Miramar, Florida on Wednesday, July 27, 2011 followed by a supper. Burial services were to be private. Richard was born April 2, 1935 in Brooklyn, New York. He married Lela Grace Williams on April 26, 1959. They had two sons, Richard Jr. & William Joseph, five Grandchildren and two Great Grandchildren.

*Our thoughts and prayers go out to family and friends of Sgt. Izzo during this difficult time.*



### **Tribute to: Sergeant Richard Izzo** **By: Retired Captain Lynda Veski**

Family and friends attended a memorial service to celebrate the life of retired Sgt. Richard "Dick" Izzo on July 27, 2011. Dick passed away on July 23rd, 2011 after a long illness. Among Dick's former co-workers who attended the service were Chuck Press, Mike Auch, Jimmy Mazer, Joe Brownlow, Pat Ryan, John VanVranken, Rick Lonergan, Vinny Aprile, Joe McCormick, Charlie Metscher, James Whitehead, Rocco DeLeo, Carlos DeVarona, Ray Chambers and his wife Gloria, Gerry Tollefson, Joan Donnelly-Ochoa, Lenny Veski and myself.

Dick was born in Brooklyn, New York on April 2nd, 1935 and moved with his parents to Florida. It was mentioned during the service that Dick joined the Prince of Peace Lutheran Church on Feb 24, 1957. Lela and he were the first couple married in the sanctuary of that church

on April 26th, 1959. Dick and Lela would become charter members of Miramar Evangelical Lutheran Church on March 11th, 1960 and Dick would serve as Vice President, signing the incorporation documents filed on October 20, 1960. Today, fifty one years later, Lela still plays the organ at the church. This sort of commitment between Lela and Dick, and between this couple and their church and community is rare, and knowing this made the service there all the more special.

Dick worked for Florida Power & Light for six years before joining the police department in 1962. He retired from MBPD on Sept. 29th, 1989. During his career, Dick was Officer of the Year twice, in 1965 and 1977, Officer of the Month many times and received a Medal of Valor. Dick was also part of an undercover operation called OSARU where he worked with Billy O'Neil, Tom Godbold and Wally Neumann. Lela affectionately recalled them and friend

Frank Azcarate whom she had recently spoken with.

Perhaps what was most remarkable about the service was Lela. At a supper immediately following the service, she personally greeted friends and coworkers, recognizing many and warmly sharing memories. For those she was meeting face to face for the first time, upon introduction, she was able to place the name to a time in Dick's career. She was beautiful and gracious and her love for Richard and her manner of honoring him will stand out in our recollection of him.

In addition to Lela, Richard leaves behind two sons, five grandchildren and two great grandchildren. Those of us who knew him will remember his always having a smile on his face. We may now know the reason behind that smile. Thank you Lela, for this fond farewell. May he rest in peace.

## Memorial Day Weekend Follow Up Letter By: Howard Zeifman



I too have a funny side to the 2001 surprise Memorial Day gathering that caught the city off guard. This was the same day that you gave an interview thanks to Sgt. Doug Reid.

The bike squad and I had just finished having dinner. We were exiting the restaurant when I was ambushed by a local reporter for NBC 6. Perhaps a good

clue as to how they found us was the 15 police bicycles parked outside. Having been a PIO earlier in my career I felt compelled to say something. My quote that aired was "I have been a police officer here on Miami Beach for 20 year and this is the worst I have seen it and I have work all weekends for the last 4 years." Unbeknownst to me, the city manager who had only been with the city for 3 months, gave an interview the same day with the Chief and stated that "it's just a little more than a normal week." That story aired, and on Monday morning I was told by my Lieutenant and Captain that I should not have given a statement to the media without prior approval. On Tuesday I was called into the Major's office, the Assistant Chief's office and later the Chief's office and read the RIOT act about my comments. On Wednesday, I was told to report to the City Managers and again told about my insubordination.

The only saving grace to the above situation is that Lt. Carlos DeVarona who was **NOT** my Lieutenant wrote the bike squad up for a Commendation and quoted in his statement that the City of

Miami Beach "was saved by Sgt Zeifman and a sea of white shirts putting down all the fights." He was referring to the mobility of the bike squad. The current standard for the bike squad used in all future events was learned that weekend of 2001.

The second part of my story is when the unknown happened Friday night. It was the night when hell broke out. By Saturday, we were over run and out of control. I was instructed by a Captain (I cannot remember who it was) to go out and order pizza's, get soda's, water and snacks for officers who could not go to a local restaurant and bring them to the community room. By the end of the weekend I had charged \$8500.00 dollars on my credit card. I walked the reimbursement thru the process and had my check by Wednesday after the weekend. I was not taking any chances that paperwork would get lost.

That's the GOOD, the BAD and the Ugly of Memorial Day weekend!



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A hurricane is nothing to be treated lightly. Torrential rain, cutting winds, and surges that can tear down the strongest of buildings require preparation. For those of us retirees who live in areas prone to hurricanes, this season can be very stressful. Forecasters have predicted that this hurricane season is likely to be very active. This is not good news. Preparing for a storm is not fun, and I would venture to say there's not one person reading this newsletter who has not had to endure that experience. In fact, I know some of you have probably lost homes or had serious damage in the past from several named storms. Please take the time to read these important and helpful tips for surviving a hurricane.

#### How to Prepare for the Annual Hurricane Season:

- 1) Listen to the forecast. Pay attention to any warnings and determine whether to evacuate or ride out the storm.
- 2) If you choose not to evacuate, find a safe shelter to stay in that is adequately outfitted with emergency supplies.
- 3) Ensure your family knows when to go to the shelter and how best to get there.
- 4) Install storm shutters on your home, or cover windows with plywood to keep them from breaking.
- 5) Purchase supplies such as non-perishable food, water, flashlights, a portable radio, batteries, and a first-aid kit.
- 6) Have rain gear and extra clothing

## Hurricane Safety Tips

stored in your shelter and easily accessible.

7) Always wait for the all-clear signal from local authorities.

#### What to do when a Hurricane Warning is issued by the National Weather Service:

- 1) Get a hold of family members to determine their whereabouts and enact your safety plan.
- 2) Gather animals in a safe place.
- 3) Fill your gas tank to ensure you can evacuate the area if necessary.
- 4) Follow the directions of local authorities and listen to local weather reports.
- 5) Don't wait until the last minute to evacuate. If you wait, exit routes may be at a standstill or completely closed.
- 6) Move forward with securing your home, closing shutters and covering windows.
- 7) Ensure everything that can be blown around and cause harm is tied down securely.

#### What to Do when the Storm Arrives:

- 1) If you are not evacuating, find a secure, safe shelter. Never stay in a mobile home, trailer, high rise, or your car.
- 2) Stay away from any windows. Find an interior room in which you have access to emergency supplies.
- 3) Don't use electronic devices.
- 4) Don't light candles. Ensure you have several flashlights with plenty of extra batteries on hand.
- 5) Have your portable radio on so you can monitor the weather and follow any instructions of local authorities.
- 6) Don't leave your secure area too soon. The storm may appear to have calmed but you may simply be in the eye.

#### What to do after the Storm Has Passed:

- 1) Make sure local authorities have issued the all-clear signal and that the storm has completely passed.
- 2) Check for power lines that have been damaged or are down and keep away from them.
- 3) Drink bottled water until you can ensure the drinking water is safe.
- 4) Keep calm and remain patient. Take some time to ensure everything is safe.
- 5) Check on neighbors and family members and perform first aid or contact medical authorities for assistance.
- 6) Replenish any supplies used and ensure you are prepared for the next storm.

Remember that a hurricane is an extremely destructive force that should not be taken lightly. Always make sure you are well prepared in advance of the storm. Listen to, and follow, the advice and instructions of your local emergency personnel. Don't put your life or the lives of your family at risk. Take the time to discuss emergency plans with your family and increase your chances of surviving a deadly hurricane unharmed.



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