

THE  
**EIGHTEEN ELEVEN**

Professional Journal of the Federal Law Enforcement Officers Association

JOURNAL



# FLEOA

**Contracted  
Legal Services  
Protecting Our  
Members' Rights**

# 24/7



Vol 146 | Issue 3 | Summer 2024

# FLEOA® Directory

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**THE EIGHTEEN ELEVEN** is the official publication of the Federal Law Enforcement Officers Association®, the largest professional non-partisan association in the nation exclusively representing federal law enforcement officers. This quarterly publication is sent free of charge to FLEOA members. It is designed to keep federal officers informed of governmental activities affecting their careers and inform members of the activities FLEOA undertakes on their behalf.

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In Memory of  
Father Joseph D'Angelo

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Edward Dennehy

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Director of Cultural Affairs and Outreach  
– Tat Shum

Director of Mental Health and Peer Support Services - Dr. Jean Kanokogi, Ph.D

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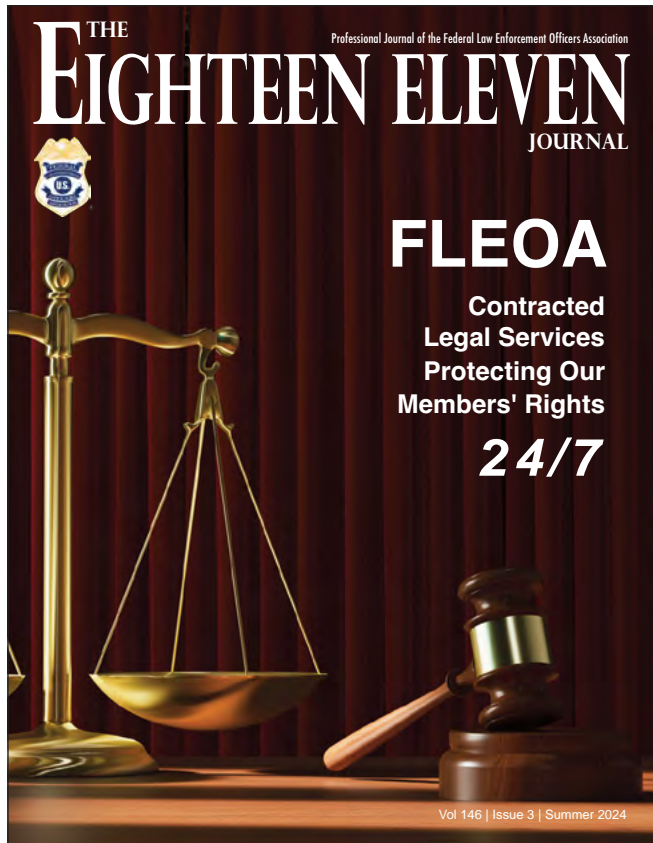
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# C O N T E N T S

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[www.fleoa.org](http://www.fleoa.org)

## ON THE COVER



The Federal Law Enforcement Officers Association continues to dedicate its resources to ensuring its members are protected by having prompt access to experienced outside legal counsel. To be eligible for attorney counsel, the requesting law enforcement officer must have been a member in good standing when the underlying incident occurred.

- 5 **President's Message**
- 6 **Legislative Column**
- 10 **Legal Column**
- 13 **Recruitment Update**
- 15 **Foundation Column**
- 17 **FLEOA Member Services' New Headquarters**
- 17 **In Memory of Pam Hammer**
- 18 **Harnessing Your Inner Voice:  
A Guide for Law Enforcement Professionals**
- 20 **Federal Law Enforcement Honored at  
White House for Disrupting Drug Trade**
- 21 **Cultural Affairs Bulletin**
- 22 **Chapter News**
- 33 **A Letter From A FLEOA Member**



FLEOA Vice President of Operations Tat Shum (ATF), Dr. Mamta Patel Nagaraja (NASA), and Ms. Tennie Griffin (FBI) at the DOJ Asian American and Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander (AANHPI) celebration event at the RFK Main Justice Building in Washington, DC. Dr. Nagaraja was the keynote speaker. Tat provided closing remarks for this momentous cultural observance in-person event. The event was also broadcast live nationwide on May 23, 2024.



Recruitment Director Jeremy O'Hara and his wife Barbara attended the Annual Police Week Candlelight Vigil.



FLEOA members celebrated the recent wedding of their coworker, IRS Nelly Burton, and her husband, Dr. Bryan Burton, at Sonoma State University in Rohnert Park, CA, on June 22, 2024.

# MISSION: RETIREMENT

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What's on your radar?  
What's downrange?

We help federal LEOs ensure their  
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## Discover the impact of your most important retirement decisions.

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- Spouses are encouraged to attend
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## TOPICS COVERED:

General Planning  
CSRS & FERS Pensions  
Survivor Benefit Plan  
Social Security  
FERS Supplement  
FLTCIP (long-term care)  
FEGLI (life)  
FEHB (health)  
Thrift Savings Plan  
...and more!

“Awesome class. Thanks for providing your time and services to us. Hope to have more classes as beneficial as this one.”

*M.K., DOJ, Virginia*

“Excellent training. Clear, to the point, easy to follow, very instructive and helpful! The best retirement seminar attended.”

*D.R., DHS/CBP, Florida*



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Mathew Silverman  
FLEOA President

## A MESSAGE FROM FLEOA NATIONAL PRESIDENT

Nine months in as your National President, I feel we have accomplished a lot but still have major work to do. I want to assure all of you, your elected board is working tirelessly to support each of your needs. While serving as your National President is not an easy job, it is certainly one of the most rewarding jobs I can think of. I am thankful for all the support I get from so many of our members.

Since my last message, we have been extremely busy and moving forward with much of our priorities, which will benefit our membership. We continue to receive calls from congressional staffers to discuss the over 100 meetings we held as a team during National Police Week. Most recently, we met with the Department of Justice (DOJ) to discuss recruitment, retention, and pay for all federal officers and agents. We had another meeting with the Office of Personnel Management (OPM) to discuss the pay cap along with law enforcement retirement for our non-law enforcement covered uniformed officers. In this meeting, we explained it has been more than 40 years since the position description has been changed for federal law enforcement officers and, since that time, law enforcement has changed significantly. We explained that local law enforcement is surpassing federal law enforcement in pay, pensions, and benefits especially in high cost of living areas. We discussed how reducing the pension calculation from 1.7% for the first 20 years to 1% for the remaining years of service makes it hard to retain the senior employees who can leave and find other jobs making more money. The meetings went well, and everyone seems to be on the same page that it is time for change. However, pension funding remains the main issue.

In April, the United States Marshals Service, North Carolina Department of Adult Corrections, and Charlotte – Mecklenburg Police Department suffered one of the greatest losses in recent years when four officers / Deputies / TFOs were killed along with several others injured. FLEOA stepped up to support the law enforcement on the ground, along with the families of the fallen and wounded. Although I hate to see such a tragedy, I am happy that we can be part of rebuilding the lives of others.

Most recently, FLEOA has been involved in protecting the brave United States Secret Service (USSS) agents who were involved in the protection of former President Trump during the senseless assassination attempt on his life. I know the USSS has received a lot of criticism since this occurred, and FLEOA is standing by our members to ensure they are protected legally. This brings up one of my major concerns: although we are assisting several of these agents, due to non-membership we had to deny coverage for several others. I am asking for each of you to please reach out to your fellow officers and agents and make sure they are members, it hurts me each time we need to deny coverage.

I want to take a minute to thank Dr. Jean Kanokogi Ph.D and Acadia Health, along with our other mental health professionals. Our mental health is one of our most important aspects which we too often take for granted. If you need help or know someone who does, FLEOA has the resources to assist. All we need is for you to ask.

Thank you all again for all you do! I have no doubt the next few months will be difficult ones for you and the country, let's stay together and assist one another.



Al Maresca, Jr.  
Legislative Vice President

The Spring has been a busy time for the Federal Law Enforcement Officers Association (FLEOA). As Congress and the White House have shifted into 2024 campaign mode, we have engaged in a number of policy battles on both ends of Pennsylvania Avenue. We have stood against a barrage of unfounded, unwarranted, and potentially dangerous attacks against federal law enforcement officers and worked to defend against fiscal year 2025 budget cuts. Additionally, we have worked to halt the advancement of privacy legislation that would severely restrict law enforcement's ability to protect the American people. In short, we have worked diligently to drive positive legislative change to help benefit our members.

During the week of May 12 through May 18, 2024, President Mathew Silverman, Vice President Dominick Stokes, members of the National Executive Board (NEB), and several of our legislative volunteers traveled to the District of Columbia for Police Week. During this time, we met with Federal, state, and local public safety stakeholders to advocate for our members and strengthen our public safety partnerships across Capitol Hill. Just as we have done in the past, FLEOA worked with other national law enforcement groups to push a unified agenda, which resulted in a number of successes in both the House and Senate. By working hand-in-hand with other advocacy groups, FLEOA was able to address several longstanding priorities, such as House passage of the "LEOSA Reform Act" and advancing the "Law Enforcement Officers Equity/Parity Act." Our work during Police Week turned into a months-long effort that resulted in many significant accomplishments.

In the House, FLEOA's aggressive advocacy helped to pass one priority measure into law: S. 546, the "Recruit and Retain Act." This bill passed the Senate last year by unanimous consent and, among other things, requires the Government Accountability Office (GAO) to examine the effects that recruitment and retention challenges are having on federal law enforcement agencies. We also helped to pass: H.R. 354, the "LEOSA Reform Act," by a vote of 221-185 on May 16 and H.R. 7581, the "Improving Law Enforcement Officer Safety and Wellness Through Data Act" which passed on May 15 by a resounding vote of 356-55. H.R. 7581 directs the Department of Justice (DOJ) to provide a comprehensive report to Congress on: (1) statistics relating to attacks on LEOs throughout the nation; and (2) analyses of the ability to track aggressive actions against LEOs. On May 20, the House also passed the FLEOA-supported H.R. 5799, the "James R. Dominguez Memorial Act," which renames the U.S. Border Patrol checkpoint on U.S. Highway 90 West in Uvalde County, Texas, after a Border Patrol Agent who was struck and killed by a passing vehicle while attempting to clear debris from the roadway that posed risks to road and community safety.

In the Senate, FLEOA had success with both the Judiciary Committee and the Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee. On May 16, the Judiciary Committee approved three FLEOA-supported bills. S. 930, the "Honoring Our Fallen Heroes Act," which Dr. Jean Kanokogi, Ph.D., FLEOA Director of Mental Health and Peer Support Services, helped write with Senator Amy Klobuchar (D-MN) and Representative Bill Pascrell (D-NJ) to extend the Public Safety Officers' Benefits (PSOB) program to the families of officers who die from exposure-related cancers. We collaborated on S. 4235, a Josh Hawley (R-MO) bill that would reauthorize the 2019 STOIC Act on mental health grant funding. FLEOA also advocated for S. 3335, the "Retired Federal Law Enforcement Officers Continuing Service Act," which would establish a DOJ grant program through which state or local agencies could hire retired federal law enforcement officers to either perform "civilian law enforcement tasks" or provide training to civilian employees on "civilian law enforcement tasks." Finally, the Senate Committee on Homeland Security & Governmental Affairs approved two FLEOA backed bills. The first was S. 3015, the "Telework Reform Act," which was approved with a provision authorizing federal agencies to noncompetitively appoint to remote work positions the spouse of a federal law enforcement officer. The other was S. 4305, the "DHS Better Ballistic Body Armor Act," which would ensure that the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) provides properly fitted body armor to female agents. Specifically, the legislation requires DHS agencies to provide all law enforcement personnel with body armor that has appropriate coverage, fit, and functionality.

Following up on our successes during Police Week, FLEOA continued to drive forward our legislative priorities. Our executives met with the Justice Management Division at Main Justice to discuss the need to address the pay cap issue as well as significant problems with the retention of qualified officers. President Silverman joined Department of Defense (DoD) Agency President John DeMarco for a meeting at the Pentagon to discuss the implementation of a congressional directive regarding uniform law enforcement credentials. FLEOA has made concerted efforts to address the cascading impact of inflation to include identifying pay compression issues and the need to implement the corrective measures necessary to mitigate the high cost not appropriately addressed via locality pay. Finally, the NEB has worked tirelessly to achieve fairness and equity by ensuring uniformed Federal police officers are granted equal access to 6(c) retirement.

With all that said, we cannot do it alone. We need your help! As noted above, one of the bills FLEOA has prioritized again this Congress is H.R. 1322, the “Law Enforcement Officers Equity Act,” and S. 1658, the “Law Enforcement Officers Parity Act.” In order for us to be successful, we need our members to contact their Representative and Senators and ask them to cosponsor these bills. While our national legislative efforts are important, it is often what Members of Congress hear from the “folks back home” that has the biggest impact on whether a Senator or Representative supports our legislative efforts.

Specifically, we are targeting the following members of the House Committee on Oversight and Accountability which has jurisdiction over H.R. 1322:

- |                                |                                      |
|--------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| Chairman James Comer (R-KY-1)  | Ranking Member Jamie Raskin (D-MD-8) |
| Rep. Pete Sessions (R-TX-17)   | Rep. Kweisi Mfume (D-MD-7)           |
| Rep. Nancy Mace (R-SC-1)       | Rep. Ro Khanna (D-CA-17)             |
| Rep. Jake LaTurner (R-KS-2)    | Rep. Jimmy Gomez (D-CA-34)           |
| Rep. Pat Fallon (R-TX-4)       | Rep. Melanie Stansbury (D-NM-1)      |
| Rep. Kelly Armstrong (R-ND)    | Rep. Robert Garcia (D-CA-42)         |
| Rep. Tim Burchett (R-TN-2)     | Rep. Maxwell Frost (D-FL-10)         |
| Rep. Nick Langworthy (R-NY-23) | Rep. Greg Casar (D-TX-35)            |

We are also targeting the following Senate HSGAC members which has jurisdiction over S. 1658:

- |                                |                                 |
|--------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| Chairman Gary Peters (D-MI)    | Ranking Member Rand Paul (R-KY) |
| Sen. Tom Carper (D-DE)         | Sen. James Lankford (R-OK)      |
| Sen. Kyrsten Siinema (I-AZ)    | Sen. Mitt Romney (R-UT)         |
| Sen. Jacky Rosen (D-NV)        | Sen. Rick Scott (R-FL)          |
| Sen. Richard Blumenthal (D-CT) | Sen. Josh Hawley (R-MO)         |
| Sen. Jon Ossoff (D-GA)         | Sen. Roger Marshall (R-KS)      |
| Sen. Laphonza Butler (D-CA)    |                                 |

You can reach your Representative and Senators via the U.S. Capitol Switchboard at (202) 224 – 3121, or online via [www.house.gov](http://www.house.gov) or [www.senate.gov](http://www.senate.gov).

*Note: Be sure to comply with your agency’s policies and only speak on behalf of your concerns as a FLEOA member / private citizen.*

## Why You Need To Be An Active FLEOA Member

### FLEOA Legal Services

### Second Quarter 2024 (April - June)



**625** calls for service.  
**105** callers not covered (typically because they joined after the incident).  
**519** matters referred to outside counsel attorneys.

**Top Categories of Cases**

Shooting Interviews	15
Internal Investigations	118
Adverse Actions	45
General Workplace Matters	84
Other	85
EEO	51
Prohibited Personnel Practice	33
Pay/OT/Leave	22
Pension/Retirement	18
LEOSA	17
Security Clearance	16
OWCP	12

*General Workplace Issues: Issues with management/colleagues, secondary employment, transfers/TDY issues, debt notices, etc.*

*\*\*Other: Private civil matters, off-duty incidents/arrests, divorce/family matters, orders of protection, etc.*

<p><b>Passed! S. 546, "Recruit and Retain Act" (Pub. Law 118-64)</b></p> <p>A 2024 Police Week legislative priority, this bill passed both chambers with broad bipartisan support and was signed by President Biden on May 24, 2024. Among other provisions, this bill requires a comprehensive Government Accountability Office study and report on the effects of recruitment and retention rates on federal, state, and local law enforcement agencies. This will include an examination of the primary reasons that federal law enforcement officers resign or retire from law enforcement as well as barriers to the recruitment and retention of qualified officers.</p>
<p><b>Passed! S. 1271, "FEND Off Fentanyl Act" (Pub. Law 118-50)</b></p> <p>This important legislation was included as an amendment to the larger supplemental foreign aid spending package signed into law in April. The "FEND Off Fentanyl Act" is a sanctions and anti-money laundering bill to help combat the fentanyl crisis by targeting opioid traffickers through enhancements to current law so U.S. government agencies can more effectively disrupt illicit opioid supply chains and penalize those facilitating the trafficking of fentanyl. The bill also ensures that sanctions are imposed not only on the illicit drug trade, but also on the money laundering that makes it profitable.</p>
<p><b>Passed! S. 3427, "Overtime Pay for Protective Services Act" (Pub. Law 118-38)</b></p> <p>This bipartisan legislation extends the overtime pay cap waiver for U.S. Secret Service personnel performing protective services through 2029.</p>
<p><b>Passed! "Extension of the Undetectable Firearms Act of 1988" (Pub. Law 118-42)</b></p> <p>FLEOA® worked to secure an extension through 2031 of the Undetectable Firearms Act of 1988 in the first minibus spending bill that became law on March 9, 2024. Among other things, the law--which was set to expire on February 2, 2024--makes it unlawful to manufacture or possess any firearm that is not detectable by a walk-through metal detector or x-ray machine.</p>
<p><b>Passed! H.R. 2670, "FY 2024 National Defense Authorization Act" (Pub. Law 118-31)</b></p> <p>In this final bill to authorize Defense Department programs signed into law in December 2023, FLEOA® successfully worked with a coalition of law enforcement organizations on the inclusion of nearly \$700 million to prevent a funding shortfall for the World Trade Center Health Program (WTCHP), which provides health monitoring and treatment services for 9/11 responders with service-related health conditions. The bill also includes language ensuring that DOD civilian and military personnel who responded to the 9/11 attacks are fully enrolled in the WTCHP.</p>
<p><b>Passed! H.J.Res.26, "Disapproving the action of the District of Columbia Council in approving the Revised Criminal Code Act of 2022" (Pub. Law 118-1)</b></p> <p>This Congressional Review Act resolution disapproved of the District of Columbia's Revised Criminal Code Act of 2022, which among other things, would have lowered penalties for serious felony offenses. President Biden signed the resolution into law on March 20, 2023.</p>

**Legislative Priorities, 118th Congress**

<p><b>H.R. 354 (Bacon, R-NE), the "Law Enforcement Officers Safety Act (LEOSA) Reform Act"</b></p> <p>This legislation is intended to address many of the issues confronting FLEOs under LEOSA. Specifically, this bill will, among other things: (1) revise the Gun Free Schools Act to include an exemption for LEOSA; (2) allow qualified current and retired officers to carry a firearm on property otherwise open to the public and national parks; (3) allow qualified active and retired officers to carry an ammunition magazine of any capacity; and (4) provide multiple options for retired officers to meet the qualification standards required by LEOSA.</p>
<p><b>H.R. 1322 (Pascrell, D-NJ), the "Law Enforcement Officers Equity Act"</b></p> <p>This bill would amend the definition of "law enforcement officer" for retirement purposes to extend 6(c)/LEO retirement to all law enforcement employees who currently do not receive it. The revised definition would encompass all law enforcement employees whose duties include the investigation or apprehension of individuals suspected or convicted of offenses against the U.S., including uniformed officers from the U.S. Postal Inspection Service and the Department of Veterans Affairs Police Department.</p>
<p><b>H.R. 1323 (Pascrell, D-NJ), the "LEO Fair Retirement Act"</b></p> <p>This bill, which FLEOA® helped to draft, would allow retiring federal officers to apply the value of uncompensated overtime earned, but never received, as a credit towards their retirement annuity. The bill amends the current law to require OPM to take into account the full dollar value of overtime hours accrued in determining the "High-3" when calculating the amount of an annuity at the time of retirement.</p>
<p><b>H.R. 3091 (Fry, R-SC) / S. 1585 (Cornyn, R-TX), the "Federal Law Enforcement Officer Service Weapon Purchase Act"</b></p> <p>FLEOA® originally proposed this legislation in 2021 to direct GSA to establish a program to allow active-duty federal law enforcement officers to purchase a handgun that is retired or rotated out of service by the employing agency that issued them the weapon if, at the time of purchase, the officer is in good standing with their employing agency. H.R. 3091 passed the House during National Police Week 2023 and is currently pending in the Senate.</p>
<p><b>The "Retirement Annuity Supplement (RAS) Clarity Act"</b></p> <p>This legislation corrects the erroneous, extralegal determination by OPM in 2016 concerning the divisibility of a FERS retirement annuity supplement (RAS) between a retiree and his/her former spouse. Specifically, the bill clarifies current law, puts an immediate stop to OPM's collection efforts against retirees, and requires the agency to repay every dollar it has improperly seized.</p>
<p><b>The "Probation Officer Protection Act"</b></p> <p>This legislation would provide arrest authority to U.S. Probation Officers for any third party who assaults, resists, intimidates, or interferes with a Probation Officer in the performance of their official duties.</p>
<p><b>The "CI Realignment Act"</b></p> <p>This legislation would transfer the functions, personnel, assets, and obligations of the Internal Revenue Service's "Criminal Investigation Division" to a newly-created "Bureau of Criminal Investigation" within the Treasury Department. This reorganization would subject CI to administration by a Senior Executive Federal Law Enforcement Official as opposed to civilian leadership.</p>



**S. 3015 (Lankford, R-OK), the "Telework Reform Act"**

While the main purpose of this legislation is to enhance current federal telework policy, it also includes language to authorize the non-competitive hiring for federal non-temporary, remote work positions for the spouses of federal law enforcement officers. FLEOA worked to amend the language to ensure this provision applied to all federal law enforcement officers (e.g., 1811s and 083s), and the bill was approved by the Senate Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee during National Police Week.

**S. 3335 (Klobuchar, D-MN), the "Retired Federal Law Enforcement Officers Continuing Service Act"**

This bill would direct DOJ to establish a grant program to enable state and local law enforcement agencies to hire retired federal law enforcement officers to both perform, and train other personnel to perform, civilian law enforcement tasks. The term "civilian law enforcement tasks" includes assisting in homicide, carjacking, and financial crimes investigations; crime scene analysis; and forensics analysis. The bill was unanimously approved by the Senate Judiciary Committee during National Police Week.

**S. 4235 (Hawley, R-MO), the "Reauthorizing Support and Treatment for Officers in Crisis (STOIC) Act"**

This bill, which was also unanimously approved by the Senate Judiciary Committee during National Police Week, reauthorizes the FLEOA-supported STOIC Act of 2019 through the end of fiscal year 2029. STOIC Act programs provide support for law enforcement officers and their families to better address their mental health and wellness needs, especially with regard to suicide prevention.

**S. 4258 (Tillis, R-NC), the "Protect and Serve Act"**

The recently introduced Senate companion to this FLEOA-supported legislation (H.R. 743), the "Protect and Serve Act" is intended to address the rise in attacks on federal, state, and local law enforcement officers. It would establish a new federal crime for knowingly assaulting, or attempting to assault, a law enforcement officer causing serious bodily injury with penalties ranging from 10 years to life in prison.

**S. 4305 (Peters, D-MI), the "DHS Better Ballistic Body Armor Act"**

This bipartisan legislation would require all agencies under DHS to provide their female law enforcement officers, and any law enforcement personnel, with improved ballistic body armor and ensure that body armor procured by DHS components best meets the coverage, fit, and functionality needs of all personnel.

**S. 4419 (Cornyn, R-TX) / H.R. 8663 (LaLota, R-NY), the "DETECT Fentanyl and Xylazine Act"**

The bill directs the DHS Science and Technology Directorate to carry out research, development, testing, evaluation, and cost-benefit analysis to improve the safety, effectiveness, and efficiency of drug detection equipment and reference libraries used by federal, state, local, and tribal law enforcement agencies to identify unknown substances. The three focus areas for this effort are: (1) portable detection equipment that requires only minimal handling of samples; (2) equipment that can separate complex mixtures with low concentrations of drugs and high concentrations of cutting agents into component parts to enable detection; and (3) technologies that use AI and machine learning to predict whether a substance is a controlled substance analogue or other new psychoactive substance not yet included in a reference library. H.R. 8663 was approved by unanimous voice vote by the House Homeland Security Committee on June 12.

New Legislation Opposed

**H.R. 8818 (McMorris Rodgers, R-WA), the "American Privacy Rights Act"**

Much like its predecessor from 2023, the "American Data Privacy Protection Act," FLEOA has serious concerns with the impact this legislation would have on federal law enforcement's ability to effectively investigate crimes, uphold the rule of law, and keep our communities safe. Specifically, the bill would severely restrict law enforcement's access to and use of data that is vital in generating leads, analyzing trends, linking criminal networks, and efficiently allocating investigative resources.

**FLEOA's New National Catholic Chaplain**

We are proud to share the brief bio of FLEOA's new National Catholic Chaplain. Fr. Anthony Cardone is a native New Yorker, growing up in Brooklyn and East Atlantic Beach, Long Island. Before being ordained a Roman Catholic Priest on June 18, 2011, he had a long and distinguished career in law enforcement. He was a Supervisory Special Agent and Assistant Regional Security Officer for the United States Department of State, Bureau of Diplomatic Security. He served with many tours of duty, including Beirut, Lebanon, and Sarajevo, Bosnia. During his career, he was stationed at JFK airport and was responsible for State Department Diplomatic Security operations for all area airports. He also worked at the U.S. Mission to the United Nations, where he was assigned to the U.S. Ambassador's protection detail.

Before his work with the State Department, Fr. Cardone was a Special Agent for the U.S. Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco & Firearms, an NYPD Police Officer, and a Nassau County Probation Officer. He earned a Bachelor of Science in Criminal Justice from Saint John's University, a Masters in Criminal Justice from Long Island University, and a Master of Divinity from Pope St. John XXIII National Seminary. Father Anthony has served as Chaplain for The NY/ NJ Port Authority Police Department, The Nassau County Police Columbia Association, The Fraternal Order of Police - Nassau County Police Lodge 69, The New York State Retired Police Association, The Long Beach Fire Department Exempt Association, and the West Hempstead Fire Department. He also has served as a Volunteer Fireman in Long Beach. Fr. Anthony is the Associate Pastor at St.Thomas the Apostle Church in West Hempstead, New York.



Fr. Anthony Cardone

# LEGAL COLUMN

## SHOULD LEOs INVOLVED IN SHOOTINGS MAKE STATEMENTS BEFORE REVIEWING BODY-WORN CAMERA RECORDINGS?

By Steven H. Cook, Esq.  
FLEOA Outside Legal Counsel

When or even whether to make a statement to investigators following an officer-involved shooting (OIS) or other critical incident is an important decision with potentially far-reaching consequences. Post-event statements can potentially be used to cross-examine law enforcement officers (LEOs) in criminal prosecutions of individuals who have assaulted LEOs, in criminal prosecutions of the LEOs for excessive force, in civil actions against the LEOs, or in administrative proceedings against the LEOs. While this decision is always made on a case-by-case basis, the decision can be especially complicated if the LEO is not permitted to see recordings of the event before making the statement. The title of this article poses one of the most important legal questions that modern-day federal LEOs may face. Before turning to the question, we need to highlight two issues.

### Post-Shooting Statements

Every federal law enforcement agency has its policies and procedures for shooting investigations. Some investigate shootings by their LEOs, while others leave investigations to the other federal agencies or the state or local jurisdiction where the shooting occurred. Regardless, as part of the investigation, LEOs involved in the shooting will be asked to agree to an interview—that is, to be questioned and to make a voluntary statement. Post-shooting interviews can be intense, focused, and detail oriented.

Of course, “voluntary statement” means the same thing for LEOs involved in shootings as it does for every other American—they are free to make it or not. It also means, as it does for everyone, that anything said in the statement can be used in any of the proceedings mentioned above—criminal, civil, or administrative. Unlike statements made in most investigations, statements related to OISs will be scrutinized closely by agency shooting review boards, local prosecutors, US Attorneys’ offices, the DOJ Civil Rights Division, civil plaintiffs’ attorneys specializing in civil rights actions, and the media. The need for accuracy cannot be overstated.

### Body-Worn Camera and Other Recordings

With the Executive Order directing federal law enforcement agencies to adopt body-worn camera (BWC) policies and the proliferation of security, cell phone, and other cameras, OISs are very often recorded. Those recordings will be available to investigators questioning the LEOs, prosecutors considering whether to bring criminal charges, and the other entities mentioned above.

The ubiquitous presence of recording devices has generated a debate on whether LEOs should be allowed to review recordings of shootings before making a statement. The ACLU takes the position that LEOs should not be allowed to review recordings of shootings before making a statement. The essence of the ACLU’s position is that allowing police to review recordings “enables lying” by the police. Their admitted goal is to get officers “on the record” before allowing them to review recordings.

In contrast, the Major Cities Chief Association (an organization whose membership comprises police executives from major cities in the United States and Canada) has taken the position that officers should be allowed to review recordings before making a statement. The essence of the MCCA position is that giving officers access to all available information to refresh and jog their memory enhances the accuracy of reports. Critically, as MCCA points out, “Once a statement is made or memorialized in an official report, it cannot be unsaid.”

### What should the LEO do?

Now, back to the question. Should an LEO involved in a shooting make a voluntary statement without reviewing recordings of the incident?

### What are the risks of making a voluntary statement without reviewing recordings?

The obvious risk of making a statement without the benefit of reviewing the recordings is that the statement is inconsistent with something captured in a recording. And, as we know, once a statement is determined to be inaccurate, it can have far-reaching consequences. As just a few examples, a misstatement can be used to cast the LEO as a liar in a criminal prosecution of a shooter; it can provide a starting place for a prosecution of the LEO (the next best thing to a statement

with a confession is a statement with a “lie”), and it can result in disciplinary action for lack of candor or prosecution for making a false statement.

Even if the misstatement does not undermine the prosecution of a suspect or result in criminal or disciplinary charges against the LEO, it can have potential Giglio implications. Misstatements of fact for any reason can call into question the LEO’s ability to perceive, remember, or recall events accurately.

Of course, the employing agency can compel the LEO to make a statement. However, agencies rarely, if ever, compel employee statements until the case has been reviewed and declined for criminal prosecution. Obtaining a declination in such cases typically takes months, and by the time that happens, recordings will have been released to the public and will be available to the LEO. Also, compelled statements cannot be used as evidence against the LEO in a criminal prosecution.

In summary, there are no takebacks with LEO statements. Statements made by LEOs involved in shootings are closely scrutinized, and if an LEO makes an inaccurate statement, it can have many negative consequences impacting litigation and the LEO’s career. Reviewing all available relevant information, including recordings, before making a voluntary statement increases the accuracy of the statement and undermines the potential for making a misstatement of fact.

### **Concerns of memory cross-contamination**

The ACLU also argues that allowing police to review recordings before an interview will undermine (not enhance) the reliability of statements. As the ACLU explains (and no one disputes), “Memory is highly malleable, and an officer’s initial recollections of what took place are likely to be altered by viewing the video, so that details that don’t appear on video are forgotten and things captured by the video are recalled as if experienced firsthand.”

This concern can easily be addressed by having the LEO’s attorney conduct what is known as a “perceptual interview.” A “perceptual interview” captures the observations and perceptions of the LEO before the recordings can influence their memory. The LEO can then use the recordings to jog his or her memory, add forgotten details, and be prepared to address potential discrepancies before making a formal statement. Since a “perceptual interview” with the LEO’s attorney is protected by the attorney-client privilege, it is not public and cannot be used to deceptively or falsely portray the LEO as a liar. At the same time, the LEO’s original perceptions are captured in an approach that protects the LEO without concerns of cross-contamination.

### **What are the advantages of making a statement without reviewing recordings?**

(FLEOA Outside Counsel Larry Berger contributed the following section.)

There can be advantages to making a voluntary statement sometime after the event, even if the LEO is prevented from reviewing the existing recordings. Without a statement from the LEO regarding the LEO’s “360” assessment of the deadly threat the LEO reacted to, the prosecutor may have incomplete and unexplained evidence to rely upon in conducting the excessive force investigation.

A prosecutor may then have to rely upon firsthand witnesses or video recordings with fragmented, inherent limitations. These limitations can include an incomplete view, obstructed view, narrow field of view, an inability to capture all events, actions, and surrounding circumstances of which an officer may have been uniquely aware. And the failure to make a statement sometime after the shooting may result in failure to know or record all that an officer observed or reasonably believed at the time of the shooting. If the officer does not provide a statement, the prosecutor may proceed with a grand jury relying upon the compromised witnesses and distorted recording with a risk of indictment. Under those circumstances, the officer could find him/herself telling their side of the story for the first time on the witness stand as a defendant. The goal of making a statement is to divert any indictment by providing a coherent, sequential statement of events which wholly supports the reasonableness of the officer’s actions, from the officer’s perspective. Witnesses and video media do not have access to the perceived nuances of deadly threat, only the involved officer is in a position to know. Discrepancies between a statement and a videotape do not automatically equate to a false statement or lack of candor, especially in light of the split-second judgment in a volatile environment to use lethal force.

### **Summary**

Deciding when or whether to make a statement after an OIS can be complex and the decision becomes even more complicated if the LEO is prevented from reviewing recordings of the event. Experienced attorneys can provide useful guidance on whether to give a voluntary statement following an OIS, and members are encouraged to contact FLEOA legal whenever they are involved in shootings or other critical incidents.

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# RECRUITMENT UPDATE



Jeremy M. O'Hara  
Recruitment Director

Over the past few months, recruiting efforts have continued to attract new members from the FLETCs and agencies across the country.

In April, National Chapters President Cody Collins traveled to Breckenridge, Colorado, and attended an IRS regional training event where he and local chapter members met with prospective recruits. Cody educated and signed up numerous new members and demonstrated the comradery of our organization during a gathering sponsored by recruiting. This successful event was co-sponsored with the Colorado chapter.

Retirement Director Joe Bertoldi and I were provided a table inside the FBI Academy during their Showcase event in May. We educated young agents about FLEOA, answered numerous questions (including the difference between FLEOA and the FBI Agents Association and how we can support one another), and signed up new members. The event was a success, and FLEOA has been invited back to the August Showcase event to continue to spread the word about FLEOA's benefits.

Also, during May, NOAA/NMFS Agency President Chris Ahr attended an agency in-service training in Nashville, Tennessee, where he represented FLEOA and recruited agents for our organization. Chris held an after-hours gathering sponsored by recruiting, where he educated and signed up new members and convinced prior members to rejoin. Thank you to Chris for taking the initiative!

Additionally, the Miami chapter held a luncheon where they supported recruiting efforts by encouraging members to bring a non-member to the luncheon. A few new members joined as a result of their efforts. Thank you to Dave Moen for supporting our recruiting efforts!

Finally, never to be forgotten, Chapter 89 at FLETC in Glynco, Georgia, continues to go above and beyond by holding events approximately every six weeks to educate and recruit academy students to join our ranks. Chapter 89's efforts have reached dozens (if not hundreds through word of mouth) of federal law enforcement officers, translating into memberships during the academy and when recruits report to their first posting. A heartfelt thank you to Michael Schexnayder for his continued, above-and-beyond efforts. They are noticed and appreciated.

President Silverman and I attended the Federal Probation and Pretrial Officers Association's (FPPOA) 11th annual conference in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, in August. The conference had approximately 750 attendees. This group had been identified as underrepresented in FLEOA, and we aimed to work with the FPPOA to educate and recruit members. FLEOA Connecticut Chapter President Katty Lopez (an active Probation Officer) alerted FLEOA leadership to the FPPOA's event which ultimately culminated into a successful event and recruitment opportunity. Additionally, we met with FPPOA leadership to discuss further collaborative efforts to support one another, as we believe we are stronger together.



FLEOA Recruitment challenge coin

To encourage more chapters to hold recruiting events nationwide, I am working on a guideline to present to the Board of Directors. The guideline will define the financial (and merchandise) support the recruiting director will provide for individual events. It is essential to support chapters' local recruiting efforts. Still, my fiduciary duty is to ensure recruiting funds are used to bolster recruiting and not fund events for current members.



Recruitment Director Jeremy O'Hara assisting the HSI Peer Support Team during Police Week

# F.L.E.O. Foundation Mission Statement

*"When tragic circumstances confront a Federal Law Enforcement Officer Association Member and their family, help will be just a phone call away."*

The F.L.E.O. Foundation is an IRS Sec 501(C)(3) non-profit charitable organization established on September 14, 1993, and provides emergency support to FLEOA members and their families who are impacted by tragic circumstances. Since its inception, the F.L.E.O. Foundation has provided over \$3 million in financial assistance to FLEOA members and their families. The F.L.E.O. Foundation relies on the generous contributions raised through the Combined Federal Campaign, corporate sponsors, and individual donors who support the federal law enforcement mission.



## Mission Initiatives

1. Provide immediate financial assistance to the surviving family of a FLEOA member who died in the line of duty or from a catastrophic event;
2. Provide financial assistance to a FLEOA member who is injured or incapacitated due to a line of duty or catastrophic event;
3. Oversee a scholastic awards program that provides support for FLEOA members' children entering their first year of college;
4. Provide support to charitable organizations that support the mission of federal law enforcement and honor the service and sacrifice of all law enforcement officers.

## How You Can Help Our Fallen Heroes:

1. Please visit our website, **[www.fleoafoundation.org](http://www.fleoafoundation.org)**, to learn more and to make a tax deductible online contribution.
2. To ensure you receive a donation receipt, please provide your email address or your mailing address.
3. You may also contribute by sending a check or money order made payable to:

**The F.L.E.O. Foundation**  
**c/o Peter Chartier**  
**2288 Blue Water Blvd, Suite 337**  
**Odenton, MD 21113**

4. Donate through the Combined Federal Campaign #54726.

*Please contact [outreach@fleofoundation.org](mailto:outreach@fleofoundation.org) with questions or your FLEOA Agency President.*

# FEDERAL LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS FOUNDATION



Jon Adler  
F.L.E.O. Foundation President

With the onset of the summer, the Foundation has continued to provide prompt support to the FLEOA members and their families who have been impacted by tragic circumstances. Sadly, we lost two members to the blessed after-life: Kevin Koblinski (ICE) and Joshua Sherman (ATF). In remembrance of Kevin and Joshua, please offer a solemn thought or prayer in honor of their service to our great nation.

Tragedy also struck our FLEOA family when a fatal storm took precious 3-year-old Cooper Drake. Please take a moment to look up in heartfelt thought and prayer for Cooper and his surviving loving parents, Chris and Corrine. There are no adequate words, but we can blanket them in our love and collective compassion. Please also keep our fearless warrior, Dave Balsamo, in your thoughts as he rebounds from a medical matter. Dave has done an excellent job leading the FLEOA 111 Project, dedicating himself to making it safer for all who serve. His warrior spirit is guiding him forward, and I have every confidence that he will be back at full strength soon.

In recognition of a different form of strength, I would like to congratulate all our 2024 scholastic awards winners. This year, the independent reviewers selected 151 applicants for scholastic awards. Thanks to the sustained grant support from the Motorola Solutions Foundation and the general funds raised by the F.L.E.O. Foundation, we were able to administer \$80,000 in scholastic awards. Overseeing this program required a lot of work, and I want to recognize Tim Chard, Erin Chard, and Wendy Cheung for managing the program and our outstanding independent reviewers. I would also like to thank Pete Chartier and Lori LaChapelle for making sure the awards were sent out timely under summertime constraints. All involved in this awards program are volunteers, and their dedication to the FLEOA membership is greatly appreciated.

While the Foundation's primary mission is to provide prompt support to the FLEOA membership when tragedy strikes, the Foundation also seeks to support initiatives to make it safer for those who serve and prevent tragedies. One way to accomplish this is by inspiring vigilance. The F.B.I. released their 2023 report, *Officers Killed and Assaulted in the Line of Duty*, which stated that "Agencies reported 79,091 officers were assaulted in 2023, marking the highest officer assault rate in the past ten years." The report also revealed, "The number of officers assaulted and injured by firearms has climbed over the years, reaching a 10-year high in 2023 with approximately 466 officers assaulted and injured by firearms." This makes evident an

imminent officer safety concern.

Published data from the CBP.gov website shows an alarming number of assaults against Border Patrol Agents, with approximately 40 Agents assaulted each month. In July, televised news video footage showed several Pro-Hamas rioters assault brave Park Police Officers in front of Union Station in Washington, DC. Undoubtedly, law enforcement officers are being assaulted at an alarming rate.

I offer this officer-safety information with the intent of shattering any prospective law enforcement complacency and inspiring all to remain laser-focused during your service. Please train hard together, work together, and stay safe together. Check your equipment regularly and know how to access everything on your duty belt with your eyes closed. When starting each tour of duty, try to clear your mind of negative distractions and stay immersed in good tactics and a powerful law enforcement mindset. Many preach situational awareness, but situational preparedness is as important to your safety.

One option for combatting negative distractions is to speak to a FLEOA National Chaplain. Sadly, we lost our legendary Catholic Chaplain, Fr. Joseph D'Angelo, who succumbed to medical challenges. He will be sorely missed, but I know he is still watching over us from above. I am happy to announce that Fr. Joe's good friend, Fr. Anthony Cardone, has agreed to serve in his mentor's footsteps as the new National Catholic Chaplain. Fr. Cardone has a special affinity for law enforcement. Prior to his being ordained as a priest, Fr. Cardone served as a law enforcement officer with DSS and ATF. He started his impressive law enforcement service with the NYPD. His police experience has served to strengthen his faith and guidance for all who serve.

As I close out this column, it is with a heavy heart that I share the sad news of the passing of a beautiful soul, Mrs. Pam Hammer. Pam is the co-founder and co-owner of legendary Pam's #1, the most well-known law enforcement bar-restaurant in the United States. Pam and her loving husband Bob opened Pam's #1 in 1978, less than one mile from the F.L.E.T.C. in Brunswick, GA. They have been the home-away-from-home family for generations of law enforcement officers who have gone through F.L.E.T.C. For over four decades, Pam has provided great hospitality and support for FLEOA members, and she and Bob have effectively recruited more members into FLEOA than any other third-party entity. Pam was a close personal friend of mine, and I will mourn and miss her good cheer, kind heart, and great intellect. May Pam rest in honorable, loving peace.

Until my next column, please stay safe out there, and 'Smash Stigma, Save Lives!'

# Guiding Federal Employees And FLEOA<sup>®</sup> Members To A More Secure Future

My team would like to say what an honor it is to be the retirement sponsors for FLEOA. We are so grateful for the work you do and to be part of such a terrific organization. As a team of qualified financial advisors, specifically focused on Federal Employees and Federal Law Enforcement Officers, we are committed to providing each of you the highest level of advice and support. Here are a few of the ways we can help:

## INDIVIDUAL MEMBERS:

- **Free Retirement Analysis and Projections** (implementing FERS, CSRS, TSP, 457, plus all outside investment holdings)
- **Free Social Security Optimization Reports** (showing CSRS impacts, plus several options to maximize benefits)
- **Complimentary 2nd Opinion of all your Investment Assets** (TSP, 457 plans, 401k's, IRA's, Roth IRA's, Mutual Funds, Savings, etc...)
- **Dedicated Telephone and Email Support for any Financial Planning Questions** (Investment, Retirement, College Planning, Tax Efficiency, Estate Planning, Debt Management, Insurance Needs, etc...)
- **Discounted Fees to any/ all of our Investment Management Services**

## CHAPTER PRESIDENTS:

- **Free On-Site Educational Seminars for your Members** (Topic Specific upon request, available from one hour to full day classes)
- **Free Retirement Webinars or Conference Calls for Members** (Topic Specific upon request: Retirement, Investment Basics, etc...)
- **Dedicated Telephone and Email Support for any Financial Planning Questions** (Investment, Retirement, College Planning, Tax Efficiency, Estate Planning, Debt Management, Insurance Needs, etc...)
- **Timely/ Periodic Email Updates of sharable Articles/ PDF's pertinent to FLEOA Members**

If you have any immediate questions or concerns, or would like to set up an initial conversation, please feel free to **email us at [BCGWealthManagement@janney.com](mailto:BCGWealthManagement@janney.com)** or **call us at 833.881.2468**.



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# FLEOA Member Services' New Headquarters – Odenton, Maryland

Effective communication is essential for any organization, and the FLEOA VP of Operations is crucial in facilitating this. This summer, VP of Operations Tat Shum is working tirelessly to collaborate with Maya Barney on relocating the Member Services office from their previous address of 4829 West Lane in Bethesda, Maryland, to the current office location at 2288 Blue Water Blvd., Suite 337, Odenton, MD 21113. From July through August 2024, VP Shum visited the new office twice to ensure the department continues to deliver high-quality customer service without interruption while he finalizes the 36-month contract professionally. VP Shum has brought his technical expertise and invaluable experience as a Contracting Officer's Representative (COR) from his work at the DOJ. A special thanks to Adella Bertoldi, a new full-time FLEOA outside counsel who has been instrumental in negotiating some of the critical terms and conditions of the contract above.

Maya Barney is the current Director of Member Services but has been a part of FLEOA Member Services since 2013. She started out in the role of Member Services Coordinator and has since then played a pivotal role in our organization. Over the years, she has served as the first point of contact for FLEOA's 30,000 members while a majority of the elected FLEOA national officers are full-time federal government employees. She and her team provide timely administrative support to the FLEOA Board of Directors, its committees, and the National Executive Committee. This includes assisting day-to-day operations of our Association, managing all FLEOA national elections, and working with the board to plan FLEOA sponsored conferences and events.

One current key task VP Shum is working on is coordinating and collaborating with Member Services and website host/service provider Datametric to continue improving operational processes and implementing best practices while our Association is pursuing a new website master & host. VP Shum is a firm believer in the power of effective communication and ethical leadership. He understands that your input is crucial to helping our organization operate more efficiently, leading to cost savings, better morale, increased productivity, and better overall performance in the long run. It is highly recommended that any member who encounters any issues with Member Services or any related operational matters should immediately contact both Maya Barney and VP Shum by phone and/or email. VP Shum can be contacted at [tshum@fleoa.org](mailto:tshum@fleoa.org) at any time. All of the service phone numbers remain unchanged, and a postal mail forwarding service has been implemented to ensure quality customer service for our FLEOA members.



FLEOA Vice President of Operations Tat Shum (ATF) and Maya Barney, Director of Member Services, celebrated the successful relocation of the Member Services Office from Bethesda to Odenton, Maryland, in July 2024.

## *In Memory of Pam Hammer*

It is with profound sadness that I inform you of the passing of Pam Hammer of the legendary Pam's #1 in Brunswick, GA. Pam was a kind soul that touched the lives of generations of federal law enforcement officers (LEOs). She and her husband, Bob, opened Pam's #1 in 1978, less than a mile from the Federal Law Enforcement Training Center (F.L.E.T.C.). They referred to their business as the best law enforcement dinner club in the country. They were correct.

Pam tended bar and greeted her customers - predominantly law enforcement officers - with her warm heart and southern charm. When F.L.E.T.C. trainees walked into Pam's #1, they felt like they were home. The walls and ceiling of Pam's #1 were adorned with law enforcement memorabilia from generations of LEOs. Both Pam and Bob were the unofficial mentors and guidance advisors for generations of LEOs, and helped them cope with being away from home. In recent years, after F.L.E.T.C. students were told they could not go home for Thanksgiving, Pam opened up their business and cooked a home made Thanksgiving dinner for them. She was a surrogate Mom, big sister and friend to many.



In addition to providing warm hospitality, Pam was also a major supporter of FLEOA's recruitment efforts. FLEOA was formed in 1977, and for over 40 years, both Pam and Bob convinced thousands of F.L.E.T.C. trainees to join FLEOA, F.L.E.O. Foundation Executive Director John Bottone is a perfect example. His father trained at F.L.E.T.C. and was introduced to FLEOA through Pam and Bob. John experienced the same, as well as his son, John Jr., who is currently a FLEOA member and F.L.E.T.C. instructor. There are numerous generations of LEOs who share a similar family experience to John's, and hold Pam and Bob in high esteem.

As we mourn the painful loss of a beautiful person, we will cherish all the happy memories of shared life experiences with Pam. Please take a solemn moment to look up with a smile and whisper a heartfelt thank you to our loving legend, Pam Hammer. I ask that you all keep Pam's loving husband, Bob, in your prayers during the challenging days ahead. God bless.



Dr. Jean Kanokogi, Ph.D

## Harnessing Your Inner Voice: A Guide for Law Enforcement Professionals

By Special Agent (Ret) Dr. Jean Kanokogi, Ph.D., FLEOA Director of Mental Health and Peer Support Services

In the high-stress world of law enforcement, maintaining mental clarity and emotional resilience is crucial. One often overlooked tool in your mental toolkit is your inner voice. How you talk to yourself can significantly impact your performance, decision-making, and overall well-being. Here's how to tame your inner voice and use it constructively.

### Understanding Your Inner Voice

Your inner voice is the internal dialogue that runs through your mind throughout the day. It can be a powerful ally or a formidable foe, depending on how you manage it. In law enforcement, where split-second decisions and high-pressure situations are the norms, a positive inner voice can be your greatest asset.

### Taming the Inner Critic

The first step in harnessing your inner voice is taming the inner critic. This negative self-talk can undermine your confidence and cloud your judgment. Here are some strategies to manage it:

1. Awareness: Pay attention to your self-talk. Notice when you're being overly critical or negative.
2. Challenge Negative Thoughts: Ask yourself if these thoughts are based on facts or assumptions.
3. Reframe: Turn negative statements into positive or neutral ones. Instead of saying, "I always mess up," try, "I did my best, and I can learn from this experience."

### Using Self-Talk Constructively

Once you've tamed your inner critic, you can focus on using self-talk constructively. Here's how:

1. Positive Affirmations: Use positive statements to boost your confidence and morale. Phrases like "I am capable," "I am calm under pressure," and "I handle challenges with grace" can reinforce a positive mindset.
2. Visualization: Pair positive self-talk with visualization. Picture yourself succeeding in challenging situations, handling them with poise and effectiveness.
3. Goal-Oriented Statements: Focus your inner dialogue on your goals. For example, "I will stay focused and thorough in this investigation," can keep you aligned with your objectives.

### Practical Applications in Law Enforcement

1. During Critical Incidents: Use calming self-talk to maintain composure. Remind yourself, "I am trained for this," or "I can handle this situation calmly and effectively."
2. Post-Incident Reflection: After a high-stress situation, use constructive self-talk to evaluate your performance. Instead of dwelling on what went wrong, focus on what you did well and how you can improve.
3. Daily Routine: Incorporate positive self-talk into your daily routine. Start your day with affirmations and end it with reflections on your achievements and areas for growth.

Your inner voice is a powerful tool that can significantly impact your performance and well-being as a law enforcement professional. By taming your inner critic and using self-talk constructively, you can enhance your resilience, improve your decision-making, and maintain a positive mindset in even the most challenging situations. Start harnessing the power of your inner voice today and see the difference it makes in your personal and professional life.

Remember, it's okay to not be okay, and seeking help is a sign of strength, not weakness.

### **Remember, You Are Not Alone!**

Feel free to reach out to whichever FLEOA Chaplain you feel comfortable with. They are here for you.

<p>National Protestant Chaplain Rev. David S. Lothrop Tel: (845) 358-6421 Email: chap.dave48@gmail.com</p>	<p>National Jewish Chaplain Rabbi Niles Goldstein Cell phone: (917) 670-8214 Email: nilesgoldstein@hotmail.com</p>	<p>National Catholic Chaplain Fr. Anthony Cardone Tel: (516) 322-1616 Email: cardoneaf@yahoo.com</p>
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Additionally, the Public Safety Liaison/First Responder Team of Acadia Health is available for you and your family. Bill Mazur and Joe Collins, both retired LEOs, will talk/text/email with you and get you connected to a provider who is vetted and who is familiar with the LEO culture. [www.helping1stresponders.com](http://www.helping1stresponders.com)

- Bill Mazur - 609-515-4111, [william.mazur@acadiahealthcare.com](mailto:william.mazur@acadiahealthcare.com)
- Joe Collins - 920-973-7310, [joe.collins@acadiahealthcare.com](mailto:joe.collins@acadiahealthcare.com)

The following resources are also here for you - Peer Support/No shame - **No Judgement:**

- Call COPLINE 1-800-267-5463 (1-800-COPLINE) Calls will be answered by a Retired Active Peer Listener  
**All calls are strictly 100% CONFIDENTIAL.**
- Call the National Suicide & Crisis Lifeline, **988**
- Call the National Suicide Hotline  
800-273-TALK (8255)  
988 (Call /Text)

**Please use these resources. Sometimes a mere connection will pull you out of a funk.**

## National Police Week

National Police Week occurs every year in May to pay special recognition to law enforcement officers who have lost their lives in the line of duty. This year, May 12 - May 18, was designated as National Police Week. Many events are planned throughout the week, most notably the Candlelight Vigil and the National Peace Officers' Memorial Service.

Every year, the FLEOA board and other volunteers from the FLEOA membership participate in National Police Week and take advantage of the week's focus on law enforcement to meet with agency heads and our elected officials to make sure FLEOA's voice is heard.

This year, eight of us took to Capitol Hill and met with an astounding number of our elected officials – 93! And most of those meetings took place over a two-day period.

Below is a list of additional meetings attended starting the week prior to National Police Week. In addition to all the meetings, everyone attended the Candlelight Vigil and the COPS Gala.

- Bipartisan Congressional Law Enforcement Working Group to discuss Police Week Priorities.
- DHS ICE Memorial Service and Wreath Laying with the Secretary of DHS.
- NAPO Top Cops
- Meeting at Justice Management Division with AAG and Deputy AAG
- Meeting with James Mann, Legislative Director, Sen. Capito (R-WV)
- Meeting with B.J. Koochmariaie, Chief Counsel, House Majority Leader Scalise (R-LA)
- Meeting with Minority Senate Judiciary Staff (Sen. Graham, R-SC)
- Meeting with Army CID Director
- Meeting with Rep. Tom Emmer (R-MN), House Majority Whip
- Meeting with Rep. Jamie Raskin (D-MD), Ranking Member of House Oversight Committee
- Meeting with Sen. Dick Durbin (D-IL), Chair of Senate Judiciary
- NCIS Wreath Laying Memorial Service
- U.S. Marshals Service Memorial Service
- United States Attorney Generals Quarterly Round Table Meeting
- United States Attorney Generals Police Week Reception
- Chapter 9 Police Week Reception
- Meeting with Pentagon Force Protection



# Federal Law Enforcement Honored at White House for Disrupting Drug Trade

Published in FEDAgent August 1, 2024

Law enforcement officers from across the nation were recently honored at the White House, for their work in fighting the drug trade.

The annual United States Interdiction Coordinator Awards honor law enforcement officers who show “exemplary work to disrupt illicit drug trafficking and dismantle the criminal networks fueling the nation’s overdose epidemic.”

The awards were handed out by Dr. Rahul Gupta, the Director of the White House Office of National Drug Control Policy (ONDCP).

“I’m proud to honor the heroic efforts of these law enforcement leaders today who are working tirelessly around the clock to prevent deadly drugs from reaching our communities and hurting vulnerable Americans. The Biden-Harris Administration is grateful for their steadfast partnership, and will continue to support life-saving law enforcement efforts to reduce overdoses, deprive drug traffickers of their profits, and keep Americans safe,” said Dr. Gupta.

## Land Interdiction

Homeland Security Investigations (HSI) Hartford’s Northeast Corridor Border Enforcement Security Task Force (NE-BEST) was awarded the Land Interdiction Award for its operation that focused on illegal drug and bulk currency smuggling. Over 80 kilograms of illicit substances and over \$800,000 in cash was seized in 2023.

HSI New England Special Agent in Charge Michael J. Krol credited cooperation between HSI, Customs and Border Protection (CBP), U.S. Postal Inspection Service (USPIS), and state and local partners.

“The achievements of the HSI Hartford Northeast Corridor BEST team show what is possible when we reach for ambitious goals and work together,” Special Agent Krol.

## Highway Interdictions

Officer Julian Armijo of the New Mexico State Police and the HSI High Intensity Drug Trafficking Areas (HIDTA) Task Force was awarded the Highway Interdictions Award for a routine traffic stop that turned into a drug bust. Officer Armijo spotted criminal activity and conducted a probable cause search of the car that resulted in the seizure of over ten kilograms of fentanyl pills.

## Maritime Interdiction

The U.S. Coast Guard Cutter James was awarded the Maritime Interdiction Award for pursuing a vessel with contraband off the coast of Ecuador. That vessel was intercepted and over 1,700 grams of cocaine was seized.

The James’ crew was lauded for its ability to spot a target on the high seas, without the use of radar or aerial assets.

“Our crew’s exceptional efforts disrupted illicit drug trafficking, deprived transnational criminal organizations of millions of dollars in revenue, apprehended suspected traffickers, strengthened a key partnership, and helped save lives by preventing drugs from reaching the streets,” said the James’ Captain, Capt. Donald Terkanian.

## Illicit Finance

HSI Chicago Financial Crimes Task Force (FCTF) Group was

awarded the Illicit Finance Award for starting Operation Banco Sucio, an investigation “designed to identify, disrupt, and dismantle complicit international money brokers and domestic operatives of a transnational criminal organization by conducting undercover money pickups of illicit funds.”

Banco Sucio led to the seizure of \$6.6 million in illicit funds, nearly 800 kilograms of illicit substances, and one plane. It’s also led to 29 indictments.

## Emerging Threats

The CBP- Land Border Integration Divisions Conveyance Monitoring and Predictivity Recognition System (CMPRS) Team received the Emerging Threats Award. The team was honored for using an intelligence targeting tool that was mounted at various locations, and can identify license plates, vessel numbers, and aircraft tail numbers.

The use of the tool resulted in the seizure of over \$146 million in drugs, currency, firearms, and ammunition in 2023.

## Domestic Investigations

The Indiana HIDTA- FBI Gang Response Investigative Team (GRIT) was honored with the Domestic Investigations Award for its work in a case that involved two individuals with a suspected fentanyl overdose.

The case was found to involve a regional drug trafficking organization (DTO) that was linked to a high priority target in the Jalisco New Generation Cartel. The DTO was dismantled and a dangerous supplier of fentanyl to Indiana communities was removed.

## Cyber Investigations

The FBI Los Angeles Field Office, Hi-Tech Organized Crime Squad was awarded the Cyber Investigations Award for its work in targeting drug vendors on the dark web who were selling opioids for cryptocurrency. Six people were arrested, and 500 pounds of narcotics were seized.

The task force later coordinated with FBI headquarters to launch a nationwide initiative.

## International Investigations

The Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) Miami Counternarcotic Cyber Investigations Task Force (CCITF) was honored for its work in targeting China-based chemical companies who play a key role in the fentanyl supply chain.

CCITF is credited with “significantly” disrupting the inflow of precursor chemicals. It also led to the largest-ever single Office of Foreign Assets Control (OFAC) financial sanctions, the indictment of three China-based chemical manufacturers, and four Chinese nationals.

## Special Recognition

The DEA Phoenix Field Division’s Tucson District Office (TDO) was given special recognition for seizing over one million fentanyl pills and over 26 pounds of fentanyl powder. The group also conducted 45 drug and drug conspiracy investigations.

# CULTURAL AFFAIRS BULLETIN



FLEOA Vice President of Operations and National Director of Cultural Affairs and Outreach Tat Shum and Acting Secretary of Labor Julie Su at a recent White House Initiative event.



The AANHPI cultural observance event included a musical performance by a group named Sound Impact, members of the Kenney Center Opera Orchestra.



U.S. Marshal Wing Chau of Rhode Island and VP Tat Shum at a recent White House Initiative event. Chau was previously nominated by former President Donald J. Trump to serve as the 33rd United States Marshal for the District of Rhode Island.



Rachel Rabusa (HHS) Advisor at White House Initiative on AANHPI and VP Tat Shum at a White House Initiative cultural event at Andrew W. Mellon Auditorium in Washington, DC.

## FLEOA National Director of Cultural Affairs and Outreach Attends Memorial Day Observance at Mount America in Nottingham, PA

Memorial Day is vital for honoring the sacrifices of those who have died in military service, educating the public, fostering national unity, and preserving the legacy of those who have contributed to the nation's freedom and security. On May 27, 2024, FLEOA VP of Operations and National Director of Cultural Affairs and Outreach Tat Shum attends a Memorial Day observance at Mount America in Nottingham, PA, in order to continue to promote and encourage a culture of respect and gratitude that can positively impact attitudes toward military service and our veterans. Attending such an important event is crucial for demonstrating our collective leadership, building relationships, and aligning the organization's efforts to reach, support, and honor veterans, military service members, and the Gold Family members. The event was well received, with participants from Virginia, Maryland, New Jersey, Delaware, and Pennsylvania regions. Any members interested in supporting this proactive civic community outreach event for a great cause should contact Tat Shum at: [tshum@fleoa.org](mailto:tshum@fleoa.org).



Yvonne Maria Schafer, VP of Operations Tat Shum, Actor/ Artist/ Film Director Federico Castelluccio, and a U.S. Naval Sea Cadet



Federico Castelluccio donated his original oil painting, which was used for the book cover of Charlie Rangers. Federico is also known as "Furio" on the TV series The Sopranos. He agreed to support FLEOA for future charity events.

# CHAPTER NEWS

## CHAPTER 1 NEW YORK CITY, NY

On June 3, Chapter members participated in the Tunnels2Towers (T2T) golf outing. John Huvanne, T2T Director of First Responder Engagement, graciously invited FLEOA members to participate, and Chapter 1 VP Anthony Lacorazza coordinated the event.

On June 19, members of Chapter 1 participated in National Law Enforcement Night by joining the NY Yankees and the National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial Fund (NLEOMF) for a fun-filled Night at Yankee Stadium. The Yankees took on the Baltimore Orioles and unfortunately lost in extra innings.

On July 25, Chapter 1 hosted a general membership meeting at Varuna Boat Club in Brooklyn. Members enjoyed an evening of catching up with old friends and making new ones.

Check your email for the date of this year's fishing tournament and other upcoming events.

Chapter 1 is working with Craig Gresh, founder of Firearms Tactics and Training, Patchogue, NY, to ensure HR 218 and CCW course certifications. Check with your local police department and/or state to ensure certification requirements. Craig has been running HR 218 for many of our retired members and has previously presented at a Chapter 1 membership meeting.

For information on any upcoming events, please send an email to [chapter1@fleoa.org](mailto:chapter1@fleoa.org).

## CHAPTER 2 NORTHERN NEW JERSEY

Chapter 2 cosponsored the Law Enforcement Torch Run for the Special Olympics—New Jersey with the Jamesburg Police Department. The annual Law Enforcement Torch Run for Special

Olympics New Jersey featured more than 3,000 officers taking to the streets of their local communities, split up into 26 separate legs/runs to raise awareness for the Special Olympics. Chapter 2 members are pictured along with the Jamesburg Police Department.

On September 14, members and their immediate family are invited to attend the Somerset Patriots game at TD ballpark. In October, the chapter will be hosting its annual golf outing, and we are planning for an open meeting with guest speakers and sponsors during the holiday season. Please contact Member Services to ensure you receive chapter events and other local information. Please feel free to reach out to us with event ideas, inform us of ways to assist locally, and ways to volunteer. You can email us at: [chapter2@fleoa.org](mailto:chapter2@fleoa.org)



Chapter 2 members at the Annual Law Enforcement Torch Run

## Brotherhood and Sisterhood

*By Matt Mahoney, Former FLEOA DEA Agency President*

A brotherhood and sisterhood can be defined as a group that shares the same goal, mission, values, and efforts. People who support each other towards that same end, and in many cases, have endured hardship and adversity and are dedicated to mission and purpose. As Federal Law Enforcement, we've all been through the academy, whether it was Quantico, FLETC, or wherever; it was complex and difficult by design and challenged us to become a team and learn what it means to be in a brotherhood and sisterhood. And by the term Brother and Sister, I mean male and female, is someone close to you who shares your mission and vision, "Has your back," and would take a bullet for you no matter what. These people collectively are the brotherhood and sisterhood. We have each other's backs no matter what. We go through doors together, confront evil, do the work, face dangers, and make arrests together. In my case, I learned it early on in the NYPD, where we were "on the job," and then again in Quantico with the DEA. We were drilled in teamwork, various forms of tactical training where you had to rely on your partners and teammates to succeed. And the same is true when we all hit the streets and in the field divisions. And when you call for help, we come in a hurry. That's a brotherhood and sisterhood. When I became Agency President for FLEOA, I had to submit an outside employment form to be approved by my Agency. My Supervisor asked me, "Why would you want to do this?" Like it's a waste of time. I told him.... it's the brotherhood, Brother. He shook his head and didn't understand.

I'm sure he understood brotherhood and sisterhood as it came to being an Agent in the DEA but not being in FLEOA. I went on in the following years being the FLEOA contact for the Agency, dealing with various issues affecting Agents' lives from financial, mental, judicial, and medical, helping many with problems they had, and FLEOA was there for all of them. FLEOA is a brotherhood and sisterhood. As a group of 30,000 members encompassing 62 federal agencies, all have the same mission: to act together as one unit and support us all with legal representation, pay, and benefits, legislative voice with Congress, mental health, family, financial, and numerous other benefits. FLEOA is like a huge umbrella that covers us all with these benefits and support. Our motto of "Don't go it alone" is why you must be a part. Because you are not alone. Together, we are strong, whether active or retired. FLEOA has your back, no matter what... 24/7. Why join FLEOA? It's the Brotherhood and Sisterhood!

## CHAPTER 3 LONG ISLAND, NY

On May 7, Chapters 1 and 3 held a joint meeting at the St. James Restaurant in Mineola, NY. Our guest speaker was Brian Montgomery, Federal Sales Representative for Vertx, which manufactures clothing and law enforcement-related equipment. Mr. Montgomery is a former police officer from Oregon, and Vertx has strongly supported the FLEOA Foundation.

On May 18, the Chapter held its annual Dinner and a Show event. We met at the Sand City Brewing Company in Northport, NY, then strolled down the road to the Engeman Theatre for a fabulous rendition of Jersey Boys. The show had an excellent cast, and the singing was phenomenal. After the show, we enjoyed dinner and camaraderie at a local restaurant, Harbor House. Watch your email for details about our Annual Summer Social, which the committee is currently planning. For more information, please contact Vice President of Special Events Leslie Lockwood at [leslie.s.lockwood@gmail.com](mailto:leslie.s.lockwood@gmail.com).

On July 25, Chapters 1 and 3 held a joint General Membership Meeting at the Varuna Boat Club in Brooklyn, NY, where members networked and learned about FLEOA legislative updates. Anyone interested in learning more about Chapter 3 and our upcoming events should contact Chapter President Heather McCue at [fleoachapter3@gmail.com](mailto:fleoachapter3@gmail.com).

Father Joe D'Angelo, Chapter 3's beloved chaplain, passed away on May 21, 2024. Father D'Angelo became a Police Chaplain in 1984 and served as a Chaplain for several different federal, state, county, and village policing agencies throughout New York. Father D'Angelo also served as the Chaplain for the Federal Law Enforcement Officers Association (FLEOA) Long Island Chapter 3 and as the National Catholic Chaplain for FLEOA. Father Joe will be dearly missed by the Chapter.



Father Joe D'Angelo deceased inspired members at our Fall 2023 chapter meeting



Chapter members at our annual Dinner and a Show event



Members of Chapters 1 and 3 at our meeting on May 7

## CHAPTER 4 QUANTICO, VA

Chapter 4 is here to bring members together in northern Virginia! Thank you to our regular participants. Whether you are a newcomer to the area, a longtime resident, a sworn LEO, or a retiree, we invite you to join your chapter for complimentary food and fellowship!

In addition to our chapter's monthly meetings, we are busy representing FLEOA!

In May, Chapter 4 and our National Recruitment Director Jeremy O'Hara met with some of the FBI's newest 1811s at the FBI Academy. In between 'war' stories, we described how important FLEOA is for us and will be for them.

Also, Chapter 4 joined FLEOA leadership in May to attend National Police Week in Washington, DC. The events that were attended included meetings with the U.S. Senators and Representatives staff to emphasize FLEOA's legislative priorities, the Candlelight Vigil, and the Concerns of Police Survivors (C.O.P.S.) Gala. Chapter 4 was also present at memorial services held at Quantico National Cemetery to honor and remember FBI Special Agents who died in the line of duty and are laid to rest there.

Chapter 4 is planning events for the rest of 2024. Look for chapter emails advertising them and show up! We need and want you to get involved! Unless advised otherwise, Chapter 4 meets on the second Tuesday of each month at 6:30 p.m. at Vinny's Italian Grill in Stafford. Please look for us in the room in the back.

# CHAPTER NEWS

## CHAPTER 7 CONNECTICUT

On June 28, Connecticut Chapter members attended our annual meeting family outing at the Hartford Yardgoats baseball game. We got on the field and cheered the players on when they took the field. We even had the Federal Paw Patrol join us; the kids enjoyed it. Members received gift cards to enjoy at the Yardgoats store, and everyone had a great time.

Chapter 7 will be having a "Dinner and a Movie" night, where gift cards will be provided to members to enjoy a nice meal and their favorite movie. If you have any ideas or suggestions for events, please contact your Chapter President. We will hold our annual October event, and a holiday get-together is always a must.



Chapter 7 enjoyed the annual baseball game



We took the field and cheered the players on!



Soon to be members of Chapter 7 smiled for the camera



## CHAPTER 13 TAMPA BAY, FL

On Thursday, June 27, Chapter 13 hosted a lunch social at Carrabba's Italian Grill in Tampa, FL. Twenty-four members were in attendance. New members got to meet, and old members caught up. Some members from adjacent inactive chapters attended the gathering. Members and chapter officers had brief but productive discussions about recruiting, member benefits, and agency outreach. It was fun, and time disappeared too quickly. We are already scouting

a venue for our next event.

Retirees anticipating to join us for our next LEOSA firearms qualification, please be aware that the FDLE/CJSTC course of fire was changed effective January 1, 2024. The new course now requires several move-and-shoot drills but is otherwise no more difficult than before. This change makes our former location unusable. Most of the larger, well-known commercial ranges prohibit drawing from the holster to fire but will allow LEOs and retired LEOs to draw and fire when not open to the public. That generally means 08:00-09:00, meaning our lunch social must be breakfast. If anyone wants to nominate another potential venue or may need accommodation due to possible physical or age-related limitations, please e-mail [Chapter13@FLEOA.org](mailto:Chapter13@FLEOA.org). Don't go it alone.



Chapter 13 members enjoyed a lunch social event at Carrabba's Italian Grill in Tampa



# CHAPTER NEWS

## CHAPTER 21 MICHIGAN

Chapter 21 wishes to recognize long-time sponsors Mission First Tactical and Bookies Bar & Grille - thank you for your unwavering support of our members! Chapter 21 enjoyed a night at the ballpark, celebrating law enforcement night with the Detroit Tigers.

The team is working hard to create another end-of-summer Detroit River cruise and holiday party. Keep an eye out for details. Stay Safe!



Custom axes to recognize our long time sponsors!



Law Enforcement night at Comerica Park

## LEGAL INQUIRIES

FLEOA members needing legal assistance should direct their inquiries to  
James Osgood, Esq.

254 South Main Street, Suite 212, New City, New York 10956

Tel: (845) 623-0808 | Fax: (845) 623-3203

To reach FLEOA's Outside Counsel about a serious incident occurring  
after normal business hours, call FLEOA's Toll-Free 24-hour  
Emergency Hotline, Tel: (877) 228-3536 [877-228-FLEO]

General inquiries about FLEOA Legal Services  
should be made to [info@jjopc.com](mailto:info@jjopc.com) or call (845) 623-0808



# CHAPTER NEWS

## CHAPTER 26 SAN FRANCISCO, CA

Members of Chapter 26 attended the Northern California Asian Peace Officers Association's (NCAPOA) Annual Awards & Officer Ronald T. Tsukamoto Scholarship Dinner earlier this year. The event was held at the Hong Kong East Ocean Seafood Restaurant in Emeryville, CA. A special thanks to SA Bill Lee (Retired IRS CI), a longstanding member who graciously purchased a table for the great cause and invited many FLEOA members and community members to attend the event. One of the event's many highlights was the special recognition of the late Oakland Police Officer Tuan Le and his immediate family members. Officer Le was fatally shot and killed in the line of duty responding to reports of a burglary at a local cannabis business in Oakland in early January 2024. Please continue to pray for Officer Le's family while his case is still being processed through the justice system.



FLEOA supporter Ms. Rita Ng (AAA Auto Club), SA Yvonne Lee (Retired TIGTA); Chapter 26 Board Member Arthur Hubbard; SA Bill Lee (Retired IRS CID); and FLEOA Vice President of Operations Tat Shum (ATF)



SA Yvonne Lee (Retired TIGTA) who is also the former President for NCAPOA with previous Presidents and current President Tracie Lui of NCAPOA



Chapter 26 held a LEOSA Qualification Shoot for retired FLEOA LEOs on June 7, 2024, followed by a Korean BBQ lunch



All attendees including FLEOA 26 members at the NCAPOA Annual Awards event stood up for showing respect for family members of late Oakland Police Officer Tuan Le who was killed in line of duty

## CHAPTER 28 SACRAMENTO, CA

On June 27, Chapter 28 held its first LEOSA qualification shoot. Members met at a range in Sacramento for this inaugural event. The Chapter is currently planning more events for the remainder of this year. For additional information on any of our events, please email [chapter28@fleoa.org](mailto:chapter28@fleoa.org). Please note Chapter 28 emails, including event announcements, are forwarded by FLEOA's Member Services. If you or someone you know is not receiving Chapter 28 related emails, please check that you are in Chapter 28 and have a non-government email address on file with Member Services.

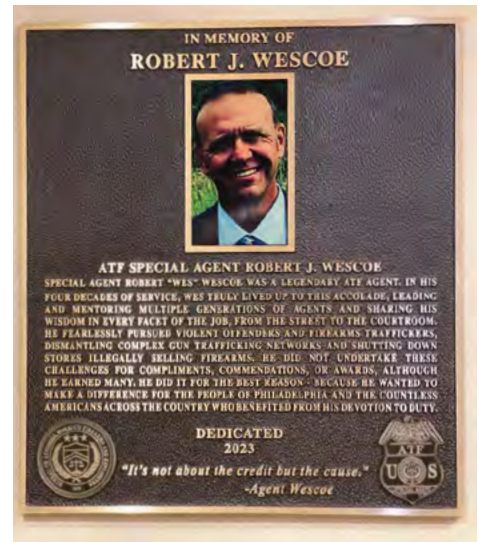


Chapter 28's Inaugural LEOSA Shoot

## CHAPTER 31 PHILADELPHIA, PA

On May 10, FLEOA members from the ATF Philadelphia Field Division gathered to honor Special Agent Robert "Wes" Wescoe. Wescoe's wife, Donna, family, and friends joined to dedicate the division training room in his name. The event was a poignant blend of remembrance and celebration, highlighting Wescoe's profound impact. Wescoe dedicated 34 years to the ATF, earning numerous awards for his outstanding service and commitment to justice. His contributions included exceptional work and mentoring generations of agents. He built lifelong friendships and became a pillar of strength and support within the ATF community. Known for his strength and fearlessness, Wescoe exhibited unwavering loyalty and integrity. His remarkable sense of humor endeared him to all who knew him. His colleagues remember him as a formidable agent and a hilarious person whose laughter brought joy to many. The dedication ceremony testified to Wescoe's enduring legacy. Stories of his bravery, loyalty, and humor made it clear his spirit would inspire future agents. The training room, now bearing his name, symbolizes his lasting impact and the high standards he set.

We will forever honor Robert "Wes" Wescoe with laughter, smiles, stories, and love, ensuring his memory remains alive. We continue to offer prayers for his family, supporting them through their loss and celebrating the life of a truly extraordinary man.



In Memory of ATF SA Robert J. Wescoe

## CHAPTER 40 ARKANSAS

On July 23, Chapter 40 members gathered for a summer luncheon that featured good

food and pleasant company. The event provided a chance for members to relax and engage in conversation. While the atmosphere was friendly, it was also a low-key affair, allowing members to catch up in a comfortable setting.



Chapter 40 members

## CHAPTER 47 SOUTHERN OHIO

Chapter 47 successfully hosted another members' event at the Ohio Tactical Officers Association (OTOA) training conference in Sandusky, Ohio, from June 10-14, 2024. The conference's highlight was the law enforcement vendor trade show, which attracted over 1,500 attendees. We thank all volunteer members, including Membership Benefits VP Bill Hampstead, who provided logistical and operational support for the event.

If any members are interested in volunteering and organizing future events, please contact any of the chapter's officers at Chapter47@fleoa.org or Tat Shum (ATF) at tshum@fleoa.org. The OTOA's Tactical Operations and Public Safety Conference is one of the largest state tactical conferences in the country, with over 1,600 attendees, 250 vendors, and 600 vendor representatives. Vendor registration for the 2025 conference opens in October, and attendee registration begins around February. For more information, visit [www.otoa.org](http://www.otoa.org/).



A special thanks to the OTOA for providing their booth to FLEOA at no cost



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## CHAPTER 50 WASHINGTON

Well, almost everyone wanted the warmer weather that summer brings, and here it is! As of this writing, Western Washington State has temperatures in the low 90's, increasing to 97 degrees until next Tuesday, when we get a 16-degree break back to 80 degrees! Washingtonians never thought air conditioning would become such a highly sought-after residential necessity as when, as Washington State humor goes, temperatures exceed 78 degrees. I hope you and yours will seize the time this summer to have some fun in the (cooler) sun and get revitalized and recharged!



Chapter 50 President James E. Eckrich

Chapter 50's federal benefits/retirement seminar for July 20, 2024, had a very, very low signup despite an aggressive announcement effort, so the Chapter will look to revisit this venue sometime in the early to mid-fall timeframe.

In the meantime, Chapter 50 is in the planning stages of a late summer Concealed Carry Symposium for all FLEOA members and their spouses/significant others featuring U.S. LawShield's Western Washington Territory Manager and U.S. LawShield's Western Washington Corporate Attorney. This free RSVP symposium will be held at a major hotel conference room in Tukwila, WA, and will cover topics of concealed carry here in the State of Washington, recent real-life incidents & how they played out in court, updated State laws, legal defense options, and many other relevant topics including an opportunity to question/discuss your concerns with a live

practicing self-defense attorney. This two+ hour evening event will include a great catered dinner complete with beverages/dessert, as well as some nice FLEOA memorabilia to take home. Stay tuned for more information and details shortly via a FLEOA National email announcement. You don't want to miss this opportunity to get updated on State of Washington concealed carry laws, legal actions, and ways to shield yourself from legal expenses associated with protecting yourself and your loved ones when you are out and about both in-state as well as in-conus.

Chapter 50 will host its traditional Christmas Brunch/Gift Exchange on Sunday, December 1, 2024, at Ivar's Salmon House on Seattle's Lake Union, featuring a wonderful extravaganza of entrees, sides, and dessert selections, not to mention our famous (optional!) gift exchange. With a beautiful view of Lake Union to enhance a truly grand dining experience, you must give this event a try. A special gathering in a uniquely gorgeous setting during that special time of the year, and there is lots of fun to be had while enjoying some truly spectacular cuisine. Look for a preliminary announcement for RSVP reservations in mid to late September!

The State of Washington has a number of resources available for LEOSA/HR218 certification. To complement and supplement your LEOSA certification, you might want to consider obtaining a State of Washington Concealed Pistol License (CPL), available via application from your police department or sheriff's office of your residential jurisdiction. Also available is information for coverage of incidents BEFORE they happen – prepaid legal defense for self-defense – whenever or wherever you may find yourself/your loved ones either at home and/or out and about. The Chapter also has available for active/retired F.L.E.O.s weatherproof and colorfast LEO discreet blue bear decals for your vehicles(s) or other applications if desired. Please call or email the Chapter President for details on LEOSA, CPLs, incident coverage, and/or LEO discreet blue bear decals.

Getting close to your 1811 retirement and looking for post-retirement work? Consider employment as a U.S. Federal Court Security Officer (CSO) at a U.S. Courthouse near you. Great pay, virtually zero daily paperwork, all your fellow CSOs are local/state/military/federal former LEOs, and you can't beat the work hours and working environment for that level of pay. Your Chapter President worked as a federal CSO for six (6) years and would be happy to discuss his experience with you if interested.

The Chapter President, James E. Eckrich, is always available 24/7 at: [jeeckrich@aol.com](mailto:jeeckrich@aol.com) and/or at 360-951-9298. Please feel free to call (the fastest response!), text, and/or email. It is indeed always a privilege to serve your law enforcement needs!



10 in the box"...fresh water Coho!



Lake Riffe, glacial fed pristine water!

# PROTECT

## WHAT MATTERS TO YOU MOST

The Hotaling Insurance Service is offering FLEOA members a free insurance audit. See a comparison between FGLI and Regular Term insurance that offers three options.

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## CHAPTER 57 WISCONSIN

On June 25, Chapter 57 hosted a retirement seminar presented by Livingston Financial Group. Chapter members learned valuable information concerning their retirement benefits and various strategies to prepare for their eventual retirement—special thanks to Glenn Livingston for his outstanding presentation. Members were treated to a delicious BBQ lunch from Mission BBQ during the seminar. If you want to participate in a future retirement seminar, please email: [chapter57@fleoa.org](mailto:chapter57@fleoa.org) and let us know. Please be on the lookout for additional events in the fall and winter.



Glenn Livingston during his presentation



## CHAPTER 65 NEBRASKA

In April, Chapter 65 hosted an HR 218 qualification at 88 Tactical, NE, for retired federal law enforcement officers. We had several retired agents from different agencies, including state and local officers.

To our membership, if you have any suggestions for our Chapter 65 events, please let our chapter officers know or email Tim Kasun, President at: [chapter65@fleoa.org](mailto:chapter65@fleoa.org).



HR 218 Qualification at 88 Tactical

## CHAPTER 97 COASTAL CAROLINA

Coastal Carolina commemorated the Charlotte Fallen Marshals and related law enforcement heroes who participated in the violent shootout, resulting in the deaths of four LEOs and several others injured. This coincided with local non-profit work the Chapter does, and it received sponsorship for the event from Waffle House and Stop Traffick. Contact President Emory Harshman if you want to be added to group emails at: [Emory@MaritimeAviationSecurity.com](mailto:Emory@MaritimeAviationSecurity.com)



Chapter 97 Officers and non-profit volunteers helped set-up the event



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# A LETTER FROM A FLEOA MEMBER

To: FLEOA National Executive Board

From: Special Agent Justin Jacobs  
Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms & Explosives (ATF)



On June 1, 2022, I found myself in a position that every law enforcement officer trains for, but never wants to be in. While coming back from lunch with the local detectives, a call came over the radio that an individual had pointed a rifle at a deputy and then fled the scene. Local law enforcement was in a slow-speed pursuit. We thought we would get in the back of the pursuit and assist, so we pulled over and put our vests on. The suspect, of course, had other plans. Rather than passing us, he pulled within 7 yards of our front bumper and put the Ford Expedition in park. Time came to a still as he reached over to the passenger seat, grabbed an AR, and began lowering it towards us.

Training, instinct, and the desire to live kicked in. I discharged my service weapon to stop the threat, striking the vehicle hood three times while the other seven rounds crashed through the front windshield, hitting the suspect in the neck and face. The suspect died with his finger on the trigger and a round in the chamber. The threat was over, but my battle had just begun.

After clearing the remainder of the vehicle, checking on the local detectives, and providing medical supplies to the officer conducting CPR, I made several calls, the first to my supervisor and the second to FLEOA. With the adrenaline and dopamine coursing through my veins and trembling hands, I spoke to the lady on the line and explained that I had been in an officer-involved shooting. Within five minutes, I got a call from a FLEOA rep. He was attentive and reassuring. I was slightly relieved after telling him a brief synopsis of what had occurred. I didn't realize how important it was to get it out in the open and verbally replay what had happened. He reassured me things would be okay and that he would be in touch.

The following eight hours went by in a blur, but it was comforting to know that if I needed anything, I could pick up the phone and call my FLEOA rep. Within two months, I was cleared criminally. It would take another twenty-two months to finally complete the process, leading us to today and this letter.

How do you summarize such a life-altering event in a page or less? How does one truly move on from it? Will there ever be a day that I don't relive or replay that event in my mind at least once? I don't know the answer to those questions. This process would have been much more complicated without FLEOA, my faith, my family, and my friends' support. I have thanked them repeatedly. I now take the time to thank you, FLEOA, and all those who have a hand in helping us move forward from such traumatic ordeals. Words can not truly express my gratitude. Thank you! Thank you from me, my wife, my two small kids, my family, and my friends. You have played a huge part in this process and have helped ensure that I came out of this ordeal stronger than before.

With the sincerest gratitude,

Justin Jacobs



ATF SA Jacobs is willing to share his thoughts and experience from this incident involving the use of deadly force by speaking at any future chapter events through zoom and/or in person. Please contact VP of Operations and Director of Cultural Affairs & Outreach Tat Shum if interested.



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# FLEOA Membership Application

To become a member or renew your membership, you may also visit our website [www.fleoa.org](http://www.fleoa.org)

Telephone: (866) 553-5362

## FEDERAL LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS ASSOCIATION MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Please complete, make check payable to FLEOA, and mail to: FLEOA, 2288 Blue Water Blvd, Suite 337, Odenton, MD 21113

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## Legal Inquiries

FLEOA members needing legal assistance should direct their inquiries to James Osgood, Esq., FLEOA Outside Counsel, 254 South Main Street, Suite 212, New City, New York 10956 Tel: (845) 623-0808 Fax: (845) 623-3203. To reach FLEOA's Outside Counsel about a serious incident occurring after normal business hours, call FLEOA's Toll-free 24-hour Emergency Hotline, Tel: (877) 228-3536 [877-228-FLEO]

General inquiries about FLEOA Legal Services should be made to [info@jjopc.com](mailto:info@jjopc.com) or call (845) 623-0808

## Legal Action Needed? Use This Checklist

Join FLEOA immediately if you are not yet a member. You must be a FLEOA member in good standing at the time of the occurrence for which you are seeking legal advice and assistance.

Emergency - Call FLEOA's Outside Counsel's 24-hour "Hotline" for outside business hours emergencies: (877) 228-3536

- Shooting
- Serious Incident
- Miranda Warnings
- Subpoenaed by Grand Jury

Correspondence should include:

- Description of the situation
- Type of assistance desired
- A copy of all pertinent documentation
- Your contact number and address

Follow up with a telephone call after several days to ensure that materials arrived and are understood by FLEOA's Outside Counsel. Again, the telephone number to call is (845) 623-0808.



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