Professional Journal of the Federal Law Enforcement Officers Association

# LIGHTEN ELEVEN

**JOURNAL** 



FLEOA is Looking
Forward to Working with
the New Administration
to Advocate for the Best
Interests of Our Members

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# FEDERAL LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS ASSOCIATION



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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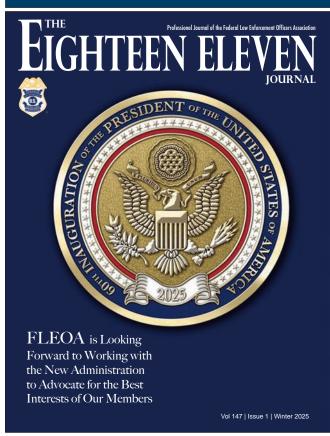
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# **ON THE COVER**



FLEOA looks forward to partnering with the new administration to support federal law enforcement officers nationwide. We are committed to meaningful dialogue, advocating for critical policies, and addressing challenges to ensure our members' voices are heard and their contributions recognized. Together, we aim to advance our shared mission of safeguarding communities.

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National President Mathew Silverman attended the Concerns of Police Survivors National Conference (C.O.P.S.) in Orlando, Florida.



National President Mathew Silverman and Vice President Mike Dillinger proudly represented FLEOA at the National Special Olympics Conference in San Antonio, Texas. FLEOA and the FLEOA Foundation were honored to serve as Gold Sponsors of this incredible event.



The U.S. Naval Sea Cadets Color Guard at the Veterans Day Dinner in Kennett Square, PA, proudly honored and recognized all who have served in the United States Armed Forces, past and present. The event was attended by FLEOA National Director of Outreach Tat Shum.



Mathew Silverman FLEOA President

# A MESSAGE FROM FLEOA NATIONAL PRESIDENT

As we close out 2024 and move into 2025, I want to wish everyone a happy and healthy New Year.

The holiday season, while a joyous time for many, can also bring mixed emotions and challenges. If you or someone you know is struggling, I encourage you to seek the support you deserve. Reaching out is a sign of strength, and there are resources available to help. Recently, I had the privilege of visiting Sierra Tucson, a renowned mental health facility specializing in serving law enforcement and military personnel. This experience reaffirmed FLEOA's commitment to making mental health and wellness a top priority for our members.

In 2024, FLEOA has been hard at work advocating for legislative priorities that directly benefit our membership. While we've achieved significant victories, our work is far from over. I am proud to highlight key successes from this year:

## Legislative Victories in 2024

H.R. 82, the "Social Security Fairness Act"

This bill, passed on the last day of the 118th Congress, repeals the Government Pension Offset (GPO) and Windfall Elimination Provision (WEP). It restores fairness for thousands of federal workers, including many FLEOA members.

- Extension of DEA Authority on Fentanyl-Related Substances
  - Prevented the expiration of critical DEA authority with a short-term extension incorporated into the government funding bill.
- H.R. 8663, the "DETECT Fentanyl and Xylazine Act"
  - Provides statutory authority for DHS to enhance research and technology to detect dangerous substances like fentanyl and xylazine.
- S. 546, the "Recruit and Retain Act" (Pub. Law 118-64)
  - This Police Week priority was signed into law, mandating a GAO study on recruitment and retention challenges affecting law enforcement nationwide.
- S.1271, the "FEND Off Fentanyl Act" (Pub. Law 118-50)
  - Introduced sanctions and anti-money laundering measures to combat opioid trafficking and disrupt illicit supply chains.
- S. 3427, the "Overtime Pay for Protective Services Act" (Pub. Law 118-38)
  - Extended the overtime pay cap waiver for U.S. Secret Service personnel through 2029.
- Extension of the "Undetectable Firearms Act of 1988" (Pub. Law 118-42)
  - Renewed through 2031 to ensure firearms are detectable by standard security systems.
- World Trade Center Health Program Funding
  - Secured nearly \$700 million to prevent a funding shortfall, ensuring continued care for 9/11 responders.
- Congressional Review Act (Pub. Law 118-1)
  - Successfully overturned D.C.'s Revised Criminal Code Act of 2022, which proposed reducing penalties for serious felonies.

# Looking Ahead to 2025

On January 20, 2025, President Trump officially began his second term. During his first administration, FLEOA worked closely with his team to ensure our members' interests were prioritized. Over the past two months, we have engaged with the Trump transition team in high-profile meetings to present our priorities for the next four years.

While FLEOA remains nonpartisan, maintaining strong relationships across the political spectrum is essential for effectively advocating for our members. The new administration has expressed a strong commitment to partnering with FLEOA, and we are optimistic that these connections will yield significant benefits for our membership.

#### **Acknowledgments**

I want to extend my heartfelt gratitude to Jon Adler and the FLEOA Foundation for their unwavering support of our law enforcement family. Their assistance has been instrumental in helping our members navigate challenging circumstances.

In 2024 alone, the foundation provided nearly \$271,881 in support, and I am confident their generosity will continue to make a lasting impact for many years to come.

Our FLEOA attorneys are a cornerstone of why so many choose to join our organization. Over the past year, this incredible team has supported 2,008 cases for our members, not including 80 shooting cases. Their dedication and expertise are invaluable, and we are incredibly fortunate to have such a talented team advocating for our members.

I urge each of you to do your part in ensuring your friends and coworkers become members of FLEOA. Every week, I receive calls from individuals pleading for FLEOA's assistance in major cases involving federal law enforcement. Unfortunately, if someone is not a member prior to their case being opened, we cannot provide the support they need, and it breaks my heart each time I hear these stories.

This is also true for the many Task Force Officers who are eligible to join. Please pass this along to them and have them join as soon as possible.

# **Closing Thoughts**

As we move into 2025, I want to thank you all for your continued support and dedication. Together, we will continue to advocate for the issues that matter most to federal law enforcement officers and build on the successes of 2024.

Here's to a productive and prosperous New Year!

Mathew Silverman National President Federal Law Enforcement Officers Association (FLEOA) www.fleoa.org

# Why You Need To Be An Active FLEOA Member

# FLEOA Legal Services Fourth Quarter 2024 (October - December)

593 calls for service.

102 callers not covered (typically because they joined after the incident).

**491** matters referred to outside counsel attorneys.

## **Top Categories of Cases**

10p Gategories or Gases	
Shooting Interviews	15
Internal Investigations	91
Adverse Actions	54
General Workplace Matters	98
Other	64
EEO	40
Prohibited Personnel Practice	11
Pay/OT/Leave	41
Pension/Retirement	19
LEOSA	28
Security Clearance	14
OWCP	18



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.

# LEGISLATIVE COLUMN

# LEGISLATION REPORT, January 2025



Al Maresca, Jr. Legislative Vice President

# 2024 - A Year in Review

Federal law enforcement officers represent the first line of defense in protecting the public, upholding justice, and ensuring the safety and security of our nation. As such, the Federal Law Enforcement Officers Association (FLEOA) is charged with protecting and advocating for these humble and professional public servants. As an organization, we have worked tirelessly to advocate for those who serve in these critical roles, ensuring that their voices are heard in the halls of Congress. Thanks to the leadership and advocacy of FLEOA, a series of important legislative achievements have been made over the past several years, all aimed at improving the working conditions, benefits, and safety of federal officers.

One of the most significant legislative wins for FLEOA members was the passage of H.R. 82, the "Social Security Fairness Act." This law eliminates the "Windfall Elimination Provision (WEP)" and "Government Pension Offset (GPO)," which unfairly reduced Social Security benefits for public servants, including federal law enforcement officers. By repealing these provisions, the act ensures that officers who have contributed to both the federal retirement system and Social Security receive fairer benefits upon retirement. This change represents a vital improvement for the financial security of officers and their families.

Over the past few years, the opioid epidemic has continued to ravage communities, with fentanyl and xylazine leading to an alarming rise in overdose deaths. That is why FLEOA played a leading role in securing enactment of the "DETECT Fentanyl and Xylazine Act" (H.R. 8663) in December. This important new law will provide law enforcement with enhanced resources and tools to detect and intercept these dangerous drugs. This legislation strengthens federal agencies' ability to combat the trafficking of these substances, ultimately making it harder for traffickers to distribute deadly drugs and ensuring that officers have the means to protect the public from the increasing threat posed by fentanyl and xylazine.

In the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic, H.R. 10545, the "American Relief Act" provided critical funding for law enforcement agencies to maintain operations and support the health and safety of officers. This included emergency funding for protective equipment, mental health services, and sick leave provisions. The act helped federal law enforcement agencies respond to the challenges of the pandemic, ensuring that officers could continue their vital work without putting their health or safety at unnecessary risk.

In honor of fallen Border Patrol Agent James R. Dominguez, FLEOA also secured final passage of the "James R. Dominguez Memorial Act" (H.R. 5799). This law renames the U.S. Border Patrol Checkpoint in Uvalde, Texas after Agent Dominguez, who died in the line of duty in 2012 while clearing debris on Highway 90.

With the growing need for skilled federal law enforcement officers, the "Recruit and Retain Act" addresses workforce shortages by providing incentives for both recruitment and retention. This legislation includes measures to improve officer benefits, training programs, and career development opportunities, ensuring that agencies can attract and retain top talent while fostering a diverse and well-trained workforce capable of meeting evolving threats.

The "FEND Off Fentanyl Act" enhances penalties for those involved in the trafficking of fentanyl and other synthetic opioids, providing law enforcement with stronger legal tools to combat the opioid crisis. The legislation also promotes greater cooperation between federal and local agencies to dismantle drug

trafficking networks. By targeting fentanyl at every level of the distribution chain, this law is crucial in reducing the availability of these deadly drugs and improving public safety.

As we are all too aware, federal law enforcement officers often work beyond standard hours to ensure public safety, making the "Overtime Pay for Protective Services Act" (S. 3427) an essential piece of legislation. The act guarantees that officers in protective services receive proper overtime compensation, acknowledging the demanding nature of their work and ensuring that their additional hours are compensated fairly. This legislation improves both officer morale and financial security by ensuring that those who go above and beyond are appropriately compensated for their dedication. In the past several months, FLEOA has also ramped up its efforts to pass broader legislation to address the impact of the pay cap on officers across the government, and to make needed improvements to the federal government's antiquated law enforcement pay and benefit systems to improve the retention and recruitment of LEOs.

The extension of the "Undetectable Firearms Act of 1988" is also an important victory in preventing the illegal proliferation of firearms that cannot be detected by standard security measures. This legislation ensures that law enforcement has the tools to prevent the manufacturing and trafficking of undetectable firearms, which could potentially pose a significant threat to public safety. The extension is a necessary update to an existing law, closing critical gaps and enhancing the ability of officers to protect the public from increasingly sophisticated weaponry.

In a significant move to protect public safety, Congress disapproved the "Revised Criminal Code Act of 2022," which would have reduced penalties for several violent crimes in the District of Columbia. FLEOA strongly opposed this legislation, which would have made it harder for law enforcement to enforce certain criminal laws. The disapproval ensures that dangerous criminals face appropriate penalties, upholding the integrity of law enforcement and the safety of the public.

While FLEOA's legislative successes have undeniably improved conditions for federal law enforcement officers, significant challenges remain. Disparities in retirement benefits for officers continue to be a critical issue, and FLEOA will remain vigilant in advocating for reforms that ensure a fair and equitable retirement system for all members. This includes pushing for further reforms to ensure that officers who dedicate their lives to public service can retire with dignity and security.

Additionally, FLEOA is committed to championing the reforms put forward in the "Law Enforcement Officers Safety Act (LEOSA)." LEOSA, which grants qualified officers the ability to carry concealed firearms nationwide, must be updated to reflect modern realities. FLEOA will advocate for changes that allow active and retired law enforcement officers to carry firearms in sensitive areas such as school zones, national parks, and federal facilities. By enabling off-duty officers to serve as a force multiplier, this reform will enhance public safety and provide a critical backup in emergency situations.

In conclusion, FLEOA is proud of the significant legislative accomplishments achieved during the two years of the 118th Congress, but the work is far from over. The organization remains committed to driving meaningful change that benefits federal law enforcement officers and, by extension, the American people. From enhancing officer benefits and improving public safety to ensuring that officers have the tools they need to combat emerging threats, FLEOA will continue to be a powerful advocate for its members. With a dedicated focus on advancing legislative reforms, FLEOA will ensure that federal law enforcement remains equipped, supported, and ready to meet the challenges of tomorrow.



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 or call us at 833.881.2468**.



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# LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

# Legislative Accomplishments, 118th Congress

#### Passed! H.R. 82. the "Social Security Fairness Act" (Pub. Law. 118-273)

One of the final measures passed by the 118th Congress, this new law fully repeals the Windfall Elimination Provision (WEP) and Government Pension Offset (GPO) under current Social Security law. For decades, the WEP and GPO had the effect of unfairly reducing the Social Security benefits for thousands of federal workers, including many FLEOA members.

#### Passed! H.R. 8663, the "DETECT Fentanyl and Xylazine Act" (Pub. Law 118-186)

Signed into law on December 23, this legislation 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.

# Passed! H.R. 10545, the "American Relief Act" (Pub. Law 118-158)

While this final year-end spending package extended government funding through March 2025, FLEOA succeeded in securing language to temporarily extend DEA's authority to list fentanyl-related substances under Schedule I.

#### Passed! H.R. 5799, the "James R. Dominguez Memorial Act" (Pub. Law 118-141)

This new law renames the U.S. Border Patrol Checkpoint in Uvalde, TX after Border Patrol Agent James. R. Dominguez, who died in the line of duty in 2012 while clearing debris on Highway 90.

#### Passed! S. 546, "Recruit and Retain Act" (Pub. Law 118-64)

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.

# Passed! S. 1271, "FEND Off Fentanyl Act" (Pub. Law 118-50)

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.

#### Passed! S. 3427, "Overtime Pay for Protective Services Act" (Pub. Law 118-38)

This bipartisan legislation extends the overtime pay cap waiver for U.S. Secret Service personnel performing protective services through 2029.

## Passed! Extension of the Undetectable Firearms Act of 1988 (Pub. Law 118-42)

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.

#### Passed! H.R. 2670, FY 2024 National Defense Authorization Act (Pub. Law 118-31)

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 eligible for enrollment in the WTCHP.

# 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)

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.



# MISSION: RETUREMENT

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

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FEGLI (life)
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\*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





ProFeds is a proud supporter of the F.L.E.O. Foundation.

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# LEGAL COLUMN

# CALL FLEOA LEGAL SERVICES BEFORE PROVIDING A VOLUNTARY INTERVIEW AS A SUBJECT OR A WITNESS

By Adela Bertoldi, Esq. FLEOA Outside Legal Counsel

Should you consult FLEOA Legal Services before agreeing to a voluntary interview? The answer is a resounding YES! Unfortunately, many members do not seek assistance until after they have already participated in a voluntary interview. When asked why they did not call beforehand, the most common responses include: they didn't think of it, they didn't believe it was necessary at the time, or they felt they hadn't done anything wrong. Additionally, many members assume that giving a voluntary interview will put the matter to rest. However, it is often not until much later—when members are compelled to a second interview or face potential disciplinary action—that they contact FLEOA for legal advice.

It is crucial to emphasize that, regardless of whether you are treated as a subject or a witness, you could inadvertently provide a statement that may lead to complications—issues that could have been avoided if you had first consulted with FLEOA Legal Counsel.

If approached for a voluntary interview, do not agree immediately. Instead, gather as much information as possible about the purpose of the interview and whether you are being regarded as a subject or a witness. Inform the investigator(s) that you will respond after consulting with legal counsel. Then, contact FLEOA Legal Services for guidance on how to proceed.

We understand the concerns members face when deciding whether to consent to a voluntary interview. While members may intellectually understand that participation is not mandatory, they often worry about appearing as if they have something to hide by declining. Others fear being viewed poorly by management or facing discipline for pausing to consult with an attorney. While these concerns are valid, it is important to remember that a voluntary interview is just that—voluntary. It can wait. This remains true even if investigators show up at your office unannounced. If that happens, let them know that you will respond after consulting with legal counsel or have a FLEOA attorney contact them directly regarding the request. Unlike a compelled interview, you cannot be disciplined for declining a voluntary interview.

In the rare event that an investigator demands an on-the-spot compelled interview, take a moment to pause, step away, and immediately contact FLEOA to see if an attorney is available for consultation.

Remember, anything you say in an interview becomes part of the permanent record and may undermine valid arguments your attorney could have made had you consulted them first. FLEOA Legal Services are here to support and guide you—don't hesitate to reach out.

# 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 or call (845) 623-0808



# **CFC OPEN SEASON**

CFC # 54726

# Please Support the Federal Law Enforcement Officers Foundation



"When a Federal Law Enforcement Officer or their family suffers a tragedy, help is just a phone call away."

That is the honorable mantra of the F.L.E.O. Foundation which proudly serves as the "First Responder" for our federal law enforcement family nationwide. We rely on the generous contributions of proud Americans like you to support our heroes and their families.

During this year's Combined Federal Campaign (CFC), please consider contributing to the F.L.E.O. Foundation: CFC #54726.

The F.L.E.O. Foundation is committed to ensuring that our federal heroes and their families

'Don't Go It Alone!'

# FEDERAL LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS FOUNDATION



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

# The Foundation Has Your Back In 2025

We can't predict, control, eliminate, or banish tragic circumstances. However, we can mitigate them. As we start the new year, your volunteer leaders at the Foundation wish you a safe and Happy New Year, and pledge that we will do our best to get help to you quickly should tragedy strike. In 2024, the Foundation provided prompt support to the surviving families of 15 of our honorably fallen. Additionally, the Foundation contributed \$143,760 to FLEOA members injured in the line of duty, and who were stricken with debilitating medical issues. This support was extended to members' immediate family members as well.

In 2024, the Foundation funded the Scholastic Awards Program, providing \$80,000 in incentive awards to members' dependents entering their first year of college. We commend the Motorola Solutions Foundation for their generous grant support which made this possible. Additionally, we provided financial support to FLEOA's National Chaplains, who are available 24/7 to offer spiritual guidance and support to our membership.

In 2024, the Foundation collaborated with and provided support to our law enforcement partner charities who were there to honor our fallen and help our members. This includes the Concerns For Police Survivors, the Police Unity Tour, the National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial Fund, Sheep Dog Impact Assistance, and First HELP.

The Foundation is proud to have a strong working relationship with the Society of Asian Federal Officers and the National Organization of Black Law Enforcement Executives. To our Chinese-American members celebrating the Lunar New Year on January 29, we extend warm wishes: "Gung Hei Fat Choi! May you be happy and prosperous!"

On January 9, the great work that all of you do was recognized during the annual Law Enforcement Appreciation Day. The Concerns for Police Survivors initiated this special day in 2015 to pay tribute annually and to recognize all that serve in law enforcement. The rights inscribed within our sacred Constitution should not be taken for granted, nor the brave law enforcement officers who serve to protect them. God bless you all and thank you for serving our country and its citizenry honorably.

With the onset of the new year, I would like to recognize those sponsors who have provided powerful support for the Foundation and FLEOA membership: ProFeds/FedImpact, Janney, FEDS Protection, ARC Relocation, Livingston Financial, IronWall 360, and Point Blank. Not only did they offer a great service to the FLEOA membership, they also provided support to the Foundation as well. We recognize and respect that these sponsors made a choice to support the Foundation, and we appreciate all they have done to empower our ability to provide financial assistance to the membership.

Throughout 2024, members received emails from the Dream Giveaway Sweepstakes promoting classic vehicles. We want to assure you that all promotional emails are sent from FLEOA Member Services, and your email addresses are not disclosed to any third party. For the second year, Dream Giveaway has designated the Foundation as one of their beneficiary charities to support. We are pleased to report that FLEOA member Larry Cavagnetto recently won Dream Giveaway's Cadillac sweepstakes. Thanks to FLEOA member participation, Dream Giveaway's contributions to the Foundation have helped us provide support to our members.

You may have also received emails regarding the annual "BFit First Responder Support Climb." On February 2, the Boston Bruins Foundation will once again host this fundraiser event at TD Gardens. Teams will compete by climbing up and down the steps in the arena until they make a full circuit. The Foundation is fortunate to have the strong support of the FBI Boston Field Office which has provided teams each year. The Foundation also appreciates the strong support from FLEOA's Boston and neighboring Northeast chapters.

As the president of the F.L.E.O. Foundation, I would like to recognize and applaud the volunteer leadership of all my fellow Board members. Thank you for your selfless support and unwavering commitment to the Foundation and the FLEOA membership. I would also like to recognize FLEOA President Mat Silverman and his team for helping to connect us with FLEOA members in need. Mat is also a staunch advocate for mental wellness initiatives, and I thank him for helping to 'Smash stigma and save lives.' Of course, there is no greater defender of the mental health and wellness of the FLEOA membership than Dr. Jean Kanokogi, Ph.D. No one but Dr. Jean could have provided mental health guidance to FLEOA members while personally conquering two brain surgeries to remove 9/11 related tumors. May this life reciprocate the blessings that Dr. Jean bestows on all of us.

In honor of Dr. Jean and her legendary mother, Rusty Kanokogi, may you all be 'Hammer Strong' in 2025, pounding all the nails in your path. Should you need us, the Foundation will be there for you.

Stay strong and stay safe, and don't let mental toughness be the adversary of mental wellness.

# **MAKING AN IMPACT**



On November 14, Jon Adler, President of the Federal Law Enforcement Officers Foundation and former DOJ-BJA Director, participated in a director's panel discussion commemorating BJA's 40th anniversary. Adler shared his pride in leading essential law enforcement programs during his tenure, including the Public Safety Officers' Benefits (PSOB), VALOR, the Bulletproof Vest Partnership, the Southwest Border Sheriffs' Resources Initiative, and the Public Safety Partnership.





On December 7, during the Dream Giveaway in Largo, Florida, Chapter 3 member Larry Cavagnetto and his wife, Deborah Aronovici Cavagnetto, were presented with their incredible prize: a Cadillac and an Escalade!!



FLEOA National Vice President of Operations Tat Shum was honored to receive an invitation to attend the prestigious APAICS Ceremonial Swearing-In & Welcome Reception at the Capital Turnaround in Washington, DC, on January 7, 2025. The event, which featured Congressman Hakeem Jeffries, Minority Leader of the U.S. House of Representatives, as the keynote speaker, provided an invaluable opportunity for Shum to represent FLEOA and strengthen its bipartisan and bicameral support from influential members of Congress.



FLEOA National Director of Outreach Tat Shum was honored to attend a Veterans Day dinner at the American Legion in Kennett Square, PA, on November 9, 2024.



FLEOA National Director of Outreach Tat Shum expressed gratitude to the Vietnam War veteran for his service and presented a FLEOA memorabilia item as a token of appreciation.

# **FLEOA ON THE GO!**



L to R: FLEOA Executive Vice President Dominick Stokes, U.S. Marshals Service Director Ronald Davis, FLEOA National President Mathew Silverman, and Deputy Director Mark Pittella



President Mathew Silverman, NOBLE President Colonel Jeffrey Glover, Executive Vice President Dominick Stokes



National President Mathew Silverman and Immediate Past President Larry Cosme joined Bill Mazur and Joe Collins for a weekend visit to Sierra Tucson. The visit focused on exploring the incredible resources this facility offers to support our members in need.



National President Mathew Silverman, National Secretary Ashley Strickland and National Recruitment Director Jeremy O'Hara attended the Concerns of Police Survivors National Conference in Orlando, Florida.



National President Mat Silverman and Vice President Mike Dillinger attended the National Special Olympics Conference in San Antonio, Texas



National Special Olympics Conference in San Antonio, Texas



3 Strategies for Law Enforcement Officers to Master Emotional Intelligence

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

Emotional intelligence (EI) is a critical skill for law enforcement officers, enhancing both personal resilience and professional effectiveness. By improving self-awareness, communication, and emotional regulation, you can navigate high-pressure situations with greater confidence and build stronger connections with teams and communities. Here are three actionable ways to develop and master emotional intelligence:

Dr. Jean Kanokogi, Ph.D.

# 1. Develop Self-Awareness Through Reflection

Understanding your own emotions is the cornerstone of emotional intelligence. Officers often encounter situations that evoke intense emotions, from frustration to compassion. Regular self-reflection helps identify emotional triggers and patterns.

- How to Practice: After a shift, take 5-10 minutes to reflect on the day. Ask yourself:
  - What emotions did I feel today?
  - How did those emotions influence my actions?
  - What could I do differently next time?

Journaling these thoughts can offer valuable insights over time, allowing you to approach future situations with a clearer perspective.

# 2. Enhance Empathy Through Active Listening

Empathy—the ability to understand and share the feelings of others—is vital for building trust with colleagues and the community. Active listening is a powerful tool to demonstrate empathy.

- How to Practice:
  - Give your full attention during conversations.
  - Avoid interrupting and focus on understanding the other person's perspective.
  - Reflect on what you hear with phrases like, "It sounds like you're feeling..." or "What I'm hearing is..."

This practice fosters mutual respect and strengthens relationships, even in challenging interactions.

# 3. Strengthen Emotional Regulation with Stress Management Tools

Staying calm under pressure is essential in law enforcement. Emotional regulation helps you respond thoughtfully rather than reacting impulsively in tense situations.

- How to Practice:
  - Use breathing techniques, like the 4-7-8 method (inhale for 4 seconds, hold for 7, exhale for 8), to calm your nervous system.
  - Develop healthy outlets for stress, such as exercise, mindfulness, or talking with a peer support group.

Mastering emotional regulation ensures you make sound decisions, even in high-stakes environments.

By cultivating self-awareness, empathy, and emotional regulation, you can enhance your personal well-being and professional interactions. Emotional intelligence not only improves on-the-job performance but also fosters deeper connections and resilience in every aspect of life.

#### ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

Remember, You Are Not Alone! Please feel free to reach out to the FLEOA Chaplain you feel most comfortable with. They are here to support you.

National Protestant Chaplain Rev. David S. Lothrop Tel: (845) 358-6421 Email: chap.dave48@gmail.com National Jewish Chaplain Rabbi Niles Goldstein Cell phone: (917) 670-8214 Email: nilesgoldstein@hotmail.com National Catholic Chaplain Fr. Anthony Cardone Tel: (516) 322-1616 Email: cardoneaf@yahoo.com

The FOP therapists are: https://fop.net/officer-wellness/providers/ NYPD resource: https://poppanewyork.org/mental-health-substance-use-screening/

Additionally, the Public Safety Liaison/First Responder Team of Acadia Health are available for you and your family. www.helping1stresponders.com.

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

- · 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
  - \* 800-273-TALK (8255)
  - \* 988 (Call /Text)

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

# 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 immediate 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;
- 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, 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 Marco Dias 2288 Blue Water Blvd, Suite 337 Odenton, MD 21113

4. Donate through the Combined Federal Campaign #54726.

Please contact outreach@fleoafoundation.org with questions or your FLEOA Agency President.



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# **OUTREACH BULLETIN**

# FLEOA Participates in the Westchester B.L.U.E. Foundation Annual Fundraising Gala in New York

In early November 2024, FLEOA National Vice President of Operations Tat Shum, joined by long-time FLEOA member SSA Heather McKeon (ATF), attended and supported the Westchester Brothers in Law Enforcement Uniting Efforts (B.L.U.E.) Foundation Annual Fundraising Dinner in New Rochelle, NY. SSA McKeon, who also serves as an executive board member for the New York Hispanic American Law Enforcement Organization (NY HALEO), played a key role in representing this important regional law enforcement charity initiative.

The event was a great success, drawing over 500 attendees, including VIPs such as U.S. Congressman Mike Lawler and Louis Molina, Commissioner of NYC Department of Citywide Administrative Services and President of the National Latino Officers Association. Executive board members from prominent law enforcement charities, including the Tunnel to Towers (T2T) Foundation, also attended. T2T has been instrumental in supporting FLEOA members in need over the years.

Members interested in volunteering for future regional law enforcement charity events are encouraged to contact Tat Shum at Tshum@fleoa.org.



Executive board members of NY HALEO joined FLEOA
National Director of Outreach Tat Shum at the Westchester
B.L.U.E. Foundation Fundraising Dinner in NY



U.S. Representative Mike Lawler (R-NY-17), a strong law enforcement supporter and member of the Congressional Law Enforcement Caucus, presented the Westchester B.L.U.E. Foundation's Law Enforcement Support Award to John P. Huvane, Executive Board Member of the Tunnel to Towers Foundation.



FLEOA National Vice President of Operations Tat Shum, SSA Heather McKeon (ATF), and Sergeant Hector Lopez (WCDC), President of NY HALEO, attended the Westchester B.L.U.E. Foundation's 10th Annual Charity Dinner, which welcomed over 500 participants.

# FLEOA member SSA Heather McKeon (ATF) was honored with a prestigious award from the Federal Drug Agents Foundation



The Federal Drug Agents Foundation proudly recognizes ATF Senior Special Agent Heather McKeon, ATF Task Force Officer Jonathan Kitsos, Orange County Drug Task Force Investigator Michael Decker (not pictured), OCDETF Investigator Christopher Tulp, and NYPD Detective Corey for their exceptional work on "Operation Hot Lunch." This investigation targeted a large-scale narcotics and firearm trafficking organization operating from a food truck in Newburgh, NY, across from the courthouse, and other locations in Orange County.

The operation resulted in the recovery of 24 firearms, 1 kilogram of cocaine, and, on May 21, 2024, led to the arrests of 33 individuals. Additional seizures included 11 kilograms of cocaine, 90 grams of fentanyl, 7 firearms, high-capacity magazines, ammunition, \$45,000 in cash, drug trafficking paraphernalia, 10 vehicles, and the food truck itself. Their dedication greatly disrupted criminal activity in the region.

# CHAPTER 1 NEW YORK CITY, NY

On December 13, Chapter 1 hosted its annual Holiday Party at the Fort Hamilton Officer's Club in

Brooklyn, NY. Guests enjoyed a glamorous evening in a unique setting, catching up with old friends and making new connections.

Chapter 1 is collaborating with Craig Gresh, founder of Firearms Tactics and Training in Patchogue, NY, to facilitate HR 218 and CCW course certifications. Please check with your local police department and/or state to confirm certification requirements. Craig has been assisting many of our retired members with HR 218 and has previously spoken at a Chapter 1 membership meeting.

For information on any upcoming events, please email chapter1@fleoa.org.



Chapter 1 President Chris Santangelo is joined by Jon Adler, President of FLEO Foundation, and Foundation officers at the Holiday Party

# CHAPTER 3 LONG ISLAND, NY

On October 26, 2024, Chapter 3 members celebrated the beauty of fall in Long Island Wine Country. We enjoyed wine tastings and small plates at the Borghese and Jamesport Vineyards, concluding the day with a waterfront dinner at On the Docks Restaurant in Aquebogue.

On December 10, we held our annual Holiday Meeting at the St. James Restaurant in Mineola, New York. During the meeting, Father Anthony Cardone was introduced as the new National

Catholic Chaplain for FLEOA. Be sure to watch your email for details about our spring meeting!

The chapter is actively planning our spring and summer events. If you have any suggestions or are interested in joining the events committee, please reach out to Vice President of Special Events Leslie Lockwood at leslie.s.lockwood@gmail.com.

For more information about Chapter 3 and our upcoming events, please contact Chapter President Heather McCue at fleoachapter3@gmail.com.



Chapter members celebrating at our annual holiday meeting



Chapter members at our event in Long Island Wine Country

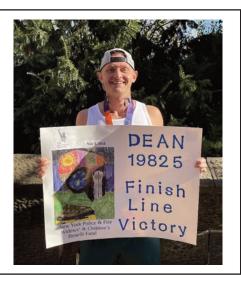
# The Reverend's Son Runs the NYC Marathon 2024

Reverend Lothrop's son, Dean Lothrop, ran the TCS NYC Marathon in honor of his father and all those who risk their lives for others. His chosen charity was Answer the Call, which raises funds for the New York Police & Fire Widows' & Children's Benefit Fund.

When asked why he ran, Dean shared:

"My dad, David Lothrop, was a first responder on 9/11. While my dad was fortunate enough to come home that night, there were 3,000 families that weren't as lucky. 9/11 continues to claim the lives of those who tirelessly searched to bring closure to victims' families. I am running to honor his bravery and the courage of countless others who showed up on one of our country's darkest days to protect our freedom."

Dean trained rigorously and completed the 26.2-mile course in 3:47, maintaining an impressive pace of just over 8  $\frac{1}{2}$  minutes per mile. A heartfelt thank you goes out to everyone who supported Dean's marathon. Your encouragement helped him push through countless hours of training, and he ran to make you all proud.



# CHAPTER 7 CONNECTICUT

As we begin 2025, let's take a moment to be thankful for another year of service and express gratitude for those who

care about us and await our return home while we serve as dedicated federal law enforcement officers in our communities.

Chapter 7 had another successful year in 2024, with several events and many members receiving thoughtful gifts. Family movie tickets and date night gift cards were especially popular, and we look forward to returning to events with the Yard Goats and the Wolf Pack. Our meet-and-greet events

CHAPTER 7

Members proudly showcasing their Chapter 7 Limited Edition Nutcrackers!

remain a fun way to welcome new members and strengthen our Chapter community.

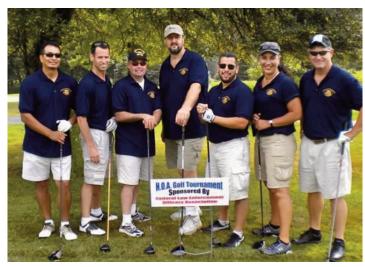
In 2024, several random members received a "Thank You" card—if you were one of the lucky

recipients, please text me your thoughts. Additionally, another group of members was chosen to receive the Limited Edition FLEOA Chapter 7 Nutcracker or Blue Santa, which were both in high demand. I promise to make more next year, though it's quite a labor of love! Families also received E-tickets to the Holiday Magic of Lights show in East Hartford, a wonderful family tradition that many enjoyed.

As we step into 2025, I want you to know how much I truly enjoy serving as your Chapter President. I look forward to another year filled with events, giveaways, and opportunities to support all our members. If you know of someone retiring from your agency, please let me know, as Chapter 7 ensures every retiring member receives a special gift.

Lastly, if you have any ideas or suggestions for events, please don't hesitate to reach out to me at 860-480-2957.

Wishing everyone a fantastic start to 2025!



Here's a throwback photo from 2008 featuring a group of FLEOA members, many of whom are now enjoying their well-deserved retirements



Limited Edition Blue Santa

# **CHAPTER 20 CHICAGO, IL**

The Chapter held its annual holiday party on December 5, 2024, at Elephant & Castle in Chicago. Approximately 50 members attended the event, featuring many familiar faces as well as some new ones. Nearly every member went home with a gift card from our raffle!

Our next event will be a spring social in late March or early April in the western suburbs of Chicago, followed by a Cubs game (First Responder Night), typically held in late May or early

June. Keep an eye on your email for details as we get closer to these dates.

Stay safe and healthy in 2025, and always remember: Don't Go It Alone!



Chapter 20 members enjoyed a great night together celebrating the holiday season

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# CHAPTER 25 CENTRAL CALIFORNIA

Happy New Year to all our Chapter members!

In November 2024, we held our annual LEOSA qualification. This is one of our most popular events and we were able to get 60 of our retired members qualified for another year. Special thanks to the FBI staff for accommodating us and assisting with the event.



**LEOSA** Qualification

We enjoyed our Holiday luncheon onboard the USS Iowa (BB-61) in San Pedro in early December. We would like to thank everyone who came out – we enjoyed good food amongst a great crowd with both new and familiar faces, and finished the day with a ship's guided tour following our chapter meeting.

We'd also like to thank participating teams for their submissions for sponsorship in the upcoming 2025 Baker 2 Vegas race. Based on the submissions, the following teams were selected for sponsorship in the race. We wish each of the teams luck as they race against other law enforcement teams in the grueling 120 miles relay race from Baker, CA to Las Vegas:

FBI - LA Competitive Team HSI LA B2V Team IRS - Criminal Investigations US OIG

Watch your email for information on the next Chapter events being planned. If you are not receiving announcements from the Chapter by email, please contact us to be added to our email list.

We always want your input and suggestions for activities and locations to hold events. Please email us at fleoachapter25@gmail.com with any suggestions.



Chapter 25 Holiday Luncheon Attendees



FLEOA National Secretary and Chapter Vice President Ashley Strickland, and Chapter President Stan Schwartz

# FLEOA Vice President of Operations Tat Shum and USPIS FLEOA Agency President Jeff Korman led a productive outreach meeting with key USPIS leadership to enhance federal law enforcement collaboration and priorities

A recent outreach meeting, spearheaded by FLEOA Vice President of Operations Tat Shum and USPIS FLEOA Agency President Jeff Korman, brought together prominent leaders in federal law enforcement to discuss critical issues and collaborative efforts. Attendees included Special Assistant to the Chief Postal Inspector AIC Blad Rojo, Chief Postal Inspector Gary Barksdale, and Jeff Korman. The meeting served as a platform for meaningful dialogue on enhancing inter-agency cooperation, addressing shared challenges, and improving operational effectiveness.

USPIS Chief Counsel Patricia Edgehille, though not pictured, also contributed valuable insights, highlighting the comprehensive approach taken to strengthen partnerships and tackle key priorities. The gathering underscored the commitment of FLEOA and USPIS to fostering unity and advancing their shared mission of ensuring public safety and justice.





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CHAPTER 26 SAN FRANCISCO, CA On December 13, Chapter 26 held its annual Holiday Luncheon at the Hong Kong East Ocean Seafood Restaurant. Fifty members attended, and a great time was had by all. FLEOA National Vice President Dominick Stokes was present and briefed the chapter on FLEOA's involvement in the presidential transition with the new administration, as well as on legislative issues affecting our members.



Chapter 26 Holiday Luncheon



Chapter 26 members pose for a group photo after the holiday luncheon.



Chapter President Phil Coughlin (FPS), left, presented a plaque to San Francisco Assistant District Attorney Tony Hernandez, center, for his work prosecuting fraud cases on behalf of federal agencies. On the right is Board Member Arthur Hubbard (Retired DEA).

CHAPTER 28 SACRAMENTO, CA On November 22, 2024, Chapter 28 held a social gathering in Sacramento. On December 14, 2024, the chapter hosted its annual holiday party. The chapter is currently planning more events for the upcoming year. For additional information about any of our events, please email: chapter 28@fleoa.org

Please note that 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 ensure that you are listed as a member of Chapter 28 and have a non-government email address on file with Member Services.



Chapter 28's social gathering



Chapter 28's holiday party

**CHAPTER 39 NEVADA** 

On Saturday, December 28, members of the Nevada Chapter gathered for a holiday luncheon and business meeting held at the award-winning National Museum of Organized Crime and Law Enforcement, also known as the "Mob Museum," in Las Vegas, Nevada.

Following the catered lunch and business meeting, members explored the ongoing power struggle between organized crime and law enforcement as presented throughout the museum's

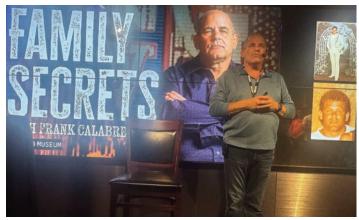
four floors of expertly curated immersive exhibits, multimedia displays, and engaging artifacts. These exhibits tell the story of the age-old dichotomy of good guys versus bad guys.

The Mob Museum is located in the historic first federal structure built in Las Vegas. Opened in 1933, it served for decades as the city's main post office, federal court, and home to various federal agency offices.

Beyond the museum displays, artifacts, and video productions, members enjoyed a live and in-person presentation by Frank Calabrese, Jr., a former Chicago mobster who turned to the FBI as the key prosecution witness against one of America's most powerful mafia families. Calabrese's testimony helped bring down fourteen top mafia bosses. Remarkably, he never entered the Witness Protection Program and continues to live under his real name, sharing his personal experiences as a mobster turned informant.

Adding to the charm of this unique event venue were the underground speakeasy, distillery, and the museum's one-of-a-kind store.

Notifications regarding Chapter events are sent by FLEOA National to members' email addresses. To ensure you receive updates about Nevada Chapter events, verify that Chapter 39 is your designated chapter and confirm that National has your correct email address. We hope to see you at our next event! You can reach us by email at Chapter39@fleoa.org.





Frank Calabrese, Jr.

A Deadly Web







Chapter 39 members explore the museum



# CHAPTER 49 EL PASO, TX

On December 5, 2024, FLEOA Chapter 49 hosted its holiday luncheon and general meeting at the State Line Restaurant in El Paso, TX. Chapter 49 President Joseph Ontiveros (Ret. DHS OIG) opened the event with remarks focusing on well wishes and emphasizing the safety of everyone during the upcoming holiday season.

The event had an excellent turnout, with over forty members in attendance. The gathering featured delicious food and great company. Following the meal, attendees participated in a raffle where several prizes were distributed—almost everyone left with a gift! (Go Santa Joe!) Prizes included an air fryer, gift cards to local dining and retail venues, knives, the traditional machete, flashlights, and other popular law enforcement items.





ASAC Ramos, CBP OPR, happy winner of the air fryer

Chapter 49 members in attendance



Winner of a cool knife set



Winner of the machete second year in a row!

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# **CHAPTER 50 WASHINGTON**

The Chapter's Annual Christmas Brunch and Gift Exchange, hosted by FLEOA Chapter 50 (State of Washington) and the International Police Association (IPA) Region 24 (Washington/Idaho/Montana/Alaska), welcomed thirty-eight (38) attendees this year on Sunday, December 1, 2024, at Ivar's Salmon House on Seattle's picturesque Lake Union! Featuring an all-you-can-eat menu with chef-carved prime rib, Ivar's world-famous salmon, a made-to-order

omelet station, sides, and a plethora of desserts, this event remains a fantastic way to usher in the Christmas season. It provides opportunities to reconnect with friends and colleagues while greeting and welcoming new faces.

The 2025 Christmas Brunch and Gift Exchange is already reserved for Sunday, December 7, 2025. Please mark your calendars in advance and join us for a world-class dining experience with a welcoming group of down-to-earth folks. We hope to see you there in 2025!

Chapter 50 (State of Washington) is planning to host its Third Concealed Carry Symposium in mid to late Q2 of 2025. This event will cover a broad range of topics, including current concealed carry laws in Washington State, recent real-life incidents and their legal outcomes, legal defense options, and how to protect yourself financially from legal expenses related to self-defense scenarios. This two-and-a-half-hour event will feature a dinner menu with beverages and dessert, along with some exclusive FLEOA memorabilia to take home. Watch for a Chapter email announcement with RSVP details for this exciting event.

The State of Washington offers several resources for LEOSA/HR218 certification. To complement and supplement your LEOSA certification, consider obtaining a Washington State Concealed Pistol License (CPL), which is available through your local police department or sheriff's office based on your residential jurisdiction. Additionally, information is available about prepaid legal defense options for self-defense incidents, providing peace of mind for you and your loved ones whether you're at home, at work, or on the go.

The Chapter also has weatherproof, colorfast, LEO-discreet blue bear decals available for active and retired FLEOs. These decals are perfect for your vehicle or other applications. Please contact the Chapter President for details on LEOSA, CPLs, incident coverage, or the blue bear decals.



The 2025 gift exchange table!

Are you approaching your 1811 retirement or looking for post-retirement opportunities? Consider employment as a U.S. Federal Court Security Officer (CSO) at a nearby U.S. Courthouse. This role offers excellent pay, minimal paperwork, and a great working environment alongside fellow former LEOs from federal, state, local, or military backgrounds. Your Chapter President worked as a federal CSO for six years in the Seattle/Tacoma federal courts and is happy to discuss his experiences if you're interested.

The Chapter President, James E. Eckrich, Special Agent (ret.), U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs – CID and LCDR (ret.), U.S. Naval Reserve, is always available 24/7 at 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!



Part of the view of Seattle's Lake Union!



Ed & Jen, friends of FLEOA

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# **CHAPTER 65 NEBRASKA**

In December 2024, Chapter 65 held a meeting and Christmas party at the Brazen Head Pub, creating a festive and

productive atmosphere for our members. The meeting covered several key topics, including discussions on how our chapter can continue to support meaningful causes. Two motions were proposed: a \$1,000 donation to the FLEOA Foundation and a \$500 donation to the Honor and Remember Foundation in conjunction with the Mia Foundation. Both motions were unanimously approved by all attendees.

The Christmas party was a wonderful opportunity to celebrate the holiday season with good food, great company, and a shared sense of camaraderie.

To our members: If you have suggestions for future chapter events or initiatives, we would love to hear from you. Please share your ideas with our chapter officers or email Tim Kasun, Chapter President, at chapter65@fleoa.org.



Chapter 65 meeting and holiday party

# CHAPTER 66 PROVIDENCE, RI

**CHAPTER 67** 

**NEW HAMPSHIRE** 

On December 13, 2024, Chapter 66 members gathered at the FOP Lodge in Warwick, Rhode Island, for the annual holiday luncheon. Several items of interest were discussed during the meeting, including the recent filing of a complaint by a law firm representing FLEOA in the U.S. District Court for the District of Rhode Island. The complaint challenges Rhode Island's firearm permitting scheme for retirees.

In December, Chapter 67 held their annual holiday luncheon at the Stark Restaurant and Brewery in Manchester, New Hampshire. The event was a fantastic opportunity for law enforcement liaison and was enjoyed by all, complemented by a wonderful luncheon.

If you are interested in participating in retired officer LEOSA qualifications in New Hampshire, please contact Frank at 603-765-1158 or Kathie at 603-490-5114 via text or call.

Chapter 67 officers welcome your suggestions and volunteer efforts for future events. Happy New Year!



Chapter 67 New Hampshire members at Manchester, New Hampshire, December 2024

# **CHAPTER 73 IDAHO**

On Friday, December 20, 2024, members of FLEOA's Chapter 73 (Idaho and Eastern Oregon) and their families enjoyed catching up, learning about planned chapter events, and socializing during a fun-filled dinner event in Boise, Idaho.



Chapter 73 members and families

# CHAPTER 74 UTAH

On December 5, 2024, Chapter 74, Utah, held a luncheon at Tucanos Grill in Salt Lake City, Utah. Approximately 65 chapter members attended, and the event was a magnificent success!

This year, over \$1,000 worth of prizes were awarded at the luncheon. We would like to extend a special thank you to Mr. Eric Impraim of Federal Employee Defense Services and Mr. Dallan

Knudsen of Anywhere Movers (385-243-1803) for donating the majority of the prizes. Anywhere Movers is an excellent moving company that fully supports the federal law enforcement community. They are available for full PCS moves or local moves, including firearm safes.

If you have ideas or suggestions for future events or chapter activities, please feel free to share them. Our top legislative priorities remain increasing locality pay for Utah and securing Utah Peace Officer Status for Inspector General Special Agents.

If you have an issue (work-related or otherwise), an idea, or a concern, please feel free to contact Chapter President Cody Collins at chapter74@fleoa.org. at chapter74@fleoa.org.



Eric Impraim (FEDs), Cody Collins (Chapter 74 President and National Chapters Director), and Dallan Knudsen (Anywhere Movers)



Chapter 74 members enjoying lunch

# **CHAPTER 89 GLYNCO, GA**

Chapter 89 kicked off the holiday season with a festive Christmas dinner at Moveable Feast in Brunswick.

Members and their guests enjoyed a delicious four-course meal in a warm and celebratory atmosphere. The chapter also welcomed FLEOA National President Mat Silverman, who provided updates on legislative matters and other current events impacting FLEOA members.



Chapter 89 members at the Christmas dinner



Chapter 89 Vice President Dominick Delmastro, Chapter President Michael Schexnayder, and National President Mat Silverman



Chapter 89 members enjoying the second course

CHAPTER 92 WESTERN NORTH CAROLINA On October 26, 2024, Chapter 92 sponsored a team for the JDRF Walk in Kernersville, NC. It was a wonderful event filled with walking and fellowship, all for a very worthy cause. Thank you to everyone who participated in and supported the walk.

In December, Chapter 92 hosted two Christmas parties for our members in Charlotte and Greensboro. We appreciate all our members who joined us for lunch and fellowship during the holiday season.





Chapter 92 members attend the Greensboro Christmas party

Charlotte Christmas party

# CHAPTER 97 COASTAL CAROLINA

The Coastal Carolina NC Chapter 97 held its annual Holiday Party at two venues in Wilmington, NC. The Chapter welcomed several new members, and the professional networking opportunities were outstanding. A continued objective of the group is to promote professional opportunities post-retirement and to recruit new members.

The Chapter is already planning for an exciting 2025. If you are considering retiring to the Wilmington, NC, or Myrtle Beach, SC, area, please contact our president for information on how to join this growing chapter.

Additionally, if any Coastal Carolinians wish to be added to the group email list or have suggestions for upcoming activities, please reach out to Chapter 97 President Emory Harshman at Emory@MaritimeAviationSecurity.com.



Celebrating the season with Chapter 97. Our annual holiday party brought joy, new connections, and festive cheer to Wilmington, NC!

The statistics released in the annual report are based on preliminary data compiled by the National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial Fund and may not represent a final or complete list of individual officers who will be added to the National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial in 2025.

# 147 LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICER FATALITIES

The number of law enforcement professionals nationwide who died in the line of duty in 2024 increased 25% compared to the previous year, according to preliminary data gathered by the **National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial Fund (NLEOMF)**, the leading authority on officer fatalities. Our **data shows** that 147 federal, state, county, municipal, military, tribal, and U.S. Territories Officers have died in the line of duty in 2024, representing a 25% increase compared to the 118 officers who died in the line of duty in 2023.



# FIREARMS-RELATED FATALITIES

Firearms-related fatalities have claimed the lives of 52 officers in 2024, which represents an 13% increase from the 46 officers killed by gunfire in 2023, and was the leading cause of death.

# OFFICERS FALLEN:



Police Officer Mohamed Said Melvindale, Michigan, P.D. EOW: JULY 21, 2024

Corporal Said was fatally shot and killed after stopping a person for littering. When he asked the individual for identification, they fled on foot. Corporal

Said pursued them and used his taser, causing the person to fall to the ground. Afterward, the individual shot and killed Corporal Said.



Investigator Taylor J Bristow Carroll County, Georgia, S.O. EOW: AUGUST 23, 2024

On August 20, 2024, Investigator Bristow was assisting another agency with serving a warrant when the suspect pulled out a handgun. The

suspect shot himself, and the bullet also hit Investigator Bristow. Investigator Bristow was transported to a hospital where he succumbed to his gunshot wound on August 23, 2024.



Deputy Sheriff Josh Phipps Russell County, Kentucky, S.O. EOW: SEPTEMBER 16, 2024

Deputy Sheriff Phipps was shot and killed as he assisted another department during a foot pursuit. During the pursuit, gunfire was

exchanged. Deputy Phipps was transported to a hospital where he succumbed to his gunshot wound.



Detective Allan Reddins Oak Park, Illinois, P.D. EOW: NOVEMBER 29, 2024

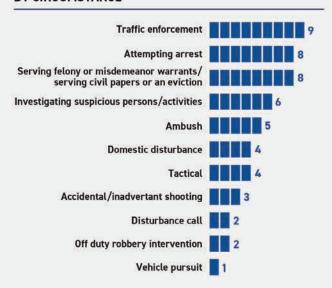
Detective Reddins was shot and killed while responding to reports of an armed man leaving a bank. He and other officers encountered the man and

instructed him to show his hands. The man produced a handgun and opened fire, striking Detective Reddins in the side.

# FATALITIES: FIREARMS-RELATED

JANUARY 1 THROUGH DECEMBER 31

#### BY CIRCUMSTANCE



#### BY FIREARM TYPE



# TRAFFIC-RELATED FATALITIES

Traffic-related fatalities increased by 48% with 46 deaths in 2024, compared to 31 deaths in 2023. The 29 fatal crashes in 2024 (automobile/motorcycle) represents an increase of 26% compared to the 23 fatal crashes in 2023. "Struck-by" fatalities, defined as an officer struck outside of their patrol vehicle, increased 113% from 8 in 2023 to 17 in 2024.

# OFFICERS FALLEN:



Corporal Robert W Sumner
Oklahoma Department of Corrections
EOW: JULY 14, 2024

Corporal Sumner was killed in an automobile crash while in transit to a medical facility in a department issued vehicle for hospital watch. Corporal

Sumner collided with another corrections employee who was in their personal vehicle. Corporal Sumner was pronounced deceased at the scene.



Sergeant Billy W Randolph, Jr. Fort Worth, Texas, P.D. EOW: AUGUST 12, 2024

Sergeant Randolph was struck and killed while investigating a crash scene involving a tractor-trailer. An impaired driver traveling in the wrong direction

struck Sergeant Randolph and he was transported to a hospital where he succumbed to his injuries.



Police Officer Phylicia F Carson Osage Beach, Missouri, P.D. EOW: AUGUST 31, 2024

Police Officer Carson was killed in a single vehicle automobile crash while responding to assist another officer during a vehicle pursuit. Officer

Carson's patrol vehicle left the roadway, struck a tree, and caught fire. Officer Carson died at the scene.



Trooper Corey S. Thompsen
Illinois State Police
EOW: OCTOBER 18, 2024

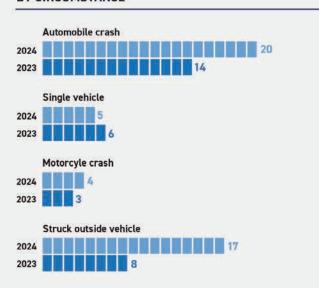
Trooper Thompsen was killed in a motorcycle crash when a driver failed to yield right of way and collided with Trooper Thompsen. Trooper

Thompsen was transported to a hospital where he succumbed to his injuries.

# FATALITIES: TRAFFIC-RELATED

JANUARY 1 THROUGH DECEMBER 31

#### BY CIRCUMSTANCE



## BY DECADE\*

1970s	59	2000s	72
1980s	64	2010s	53
1990s	59	2020s	48

\*Average per decade

# 49 OTHER CAUSES AND FATALITIES

The 'other' category includes long-term illnesses related to the September 11th terror attacks, acute medical events brought on by extreme and/or stressful events experienced on-duty, and a variety of rare yet significant fatal incidents.

# OFFICERS FALLEN:



#### Police Officer James B Crowley Chicago, Illinois, P.D. EOW: AUGUST 22, 2024

On September 4, 1987, Officer Crowley was injured in an auto accident when the squad car he was in was struck by a vehicle traveling at high speed. Officer William Morrison

died from his injuries the day of the incident and he suffered a traumatic brain injury that left him paralyzed. He succumbed to complications of his initial injury on August 22, 2024.



# Corporal Raymond Kuuchi U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs EOW: SEPTEMBER 2, 2024

Corporal Kuuchi was assigned to the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs Police in the state of New Jersey and is a department trainer. He suffered a fatal heart attack while

participating in a training at the Law Enforcement Training Center in North Little Rock, Arkansas. Corporal Kuuchi collapsed after the training and was transported to the hospital where he was pronounced deceased.



## Detective Maurice Joseph Norfolk, Virginia, P.D. EOW: OCTOBER 9, 2024

Detective Joseph performed rescue and recovery duties in the aftermath of the terrorist attack at the World Trade Center on September 11, 2001. Detective Joseph

succumbed to complications due to exposure during his recovery efforts on October 9, 2024.



#### Park Ranger Kevin M Grossheim U.S. Department of the Interior, National Park Service EOW: OCTOBER 6, 2024

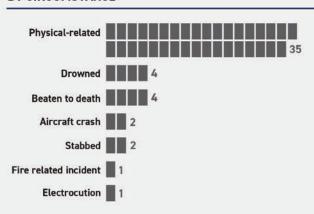
U.S. Park Ranger Grossheim drowned while rescuing stranded boaters on a lake in Voyageurs National Park. He navigated through

stormy weather to access the boaters. During the operation, the vessel sank and Ranger Grossheim became trapped and drowned. The boaters were able to reach land safely.

# FATALITIES: OTHER CAUSES

JANUARY 1 THROUGH DECEMBER 31

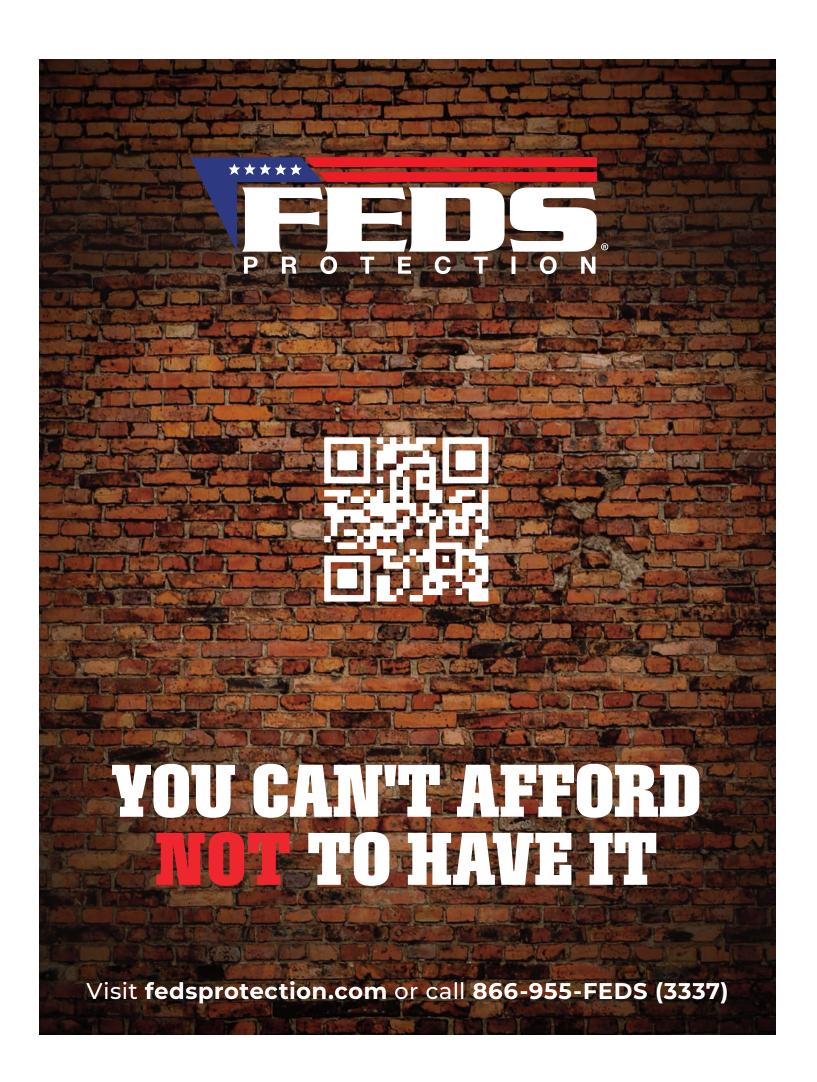
# BY CIRCUMSTANCE



## **BY DECADE\***

1970s	48	2000s	44
1980s	41	2010s	63
1990s	36	2020s	229

<sup>\*</sup>Average per decade



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AGENCY JOB SERIES#	and JOB TITLE (Must be filled in)  CHAPTER/CITY TO BE ASSIGNED TO			
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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 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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