



BLUECOATS OF BARNSTABLE

NEWSLETTER

FALL
2021

FRIENDS,

It was wonderful to see you all again at the annual meeting. I could hardly believe so much time had passed since we were last together in 2019. I was glad to see that not only did everyone look healthy and happy, but that the energy that flowed through the evening was as powerful as ever. It was truly a special night.

As I prepared my remarks for the dinner I thought back on the work we have done together and the support you have provided to us over the years. I found myself looking at pictures, reviewing emails, reading past newsletters, and thinking of the many meetings and conversations we have had over the years. As I did, I could see how much you have grown and how your role has evolved and developed.

On February 3, 2005, Chris Page, Rita Jones, David Hirsch, Hid Welch, and Hector Bueno met together for the first time and the Bluecoats of Barnstable was born. Sixteen years later, five has grown to over three hundred and the giving has exceeded \$436,606. A truly awesome accomplishment that has certainly helped to improve the lives and safety of the officers that work in the Town of Barnstable serving their community every day.

While that is certainly very impressive, what is the real measure of your success and growth the last sixteen years? What has been the impact? As police officers we often find ourselves asking similar questions. Dealing with people in crisis and in need of help each day, it is natural to ask "What difference have I made? Did I help?"

This year you got an answer to that question. Listening to the poignant words of Charlotte Sturgis, reflecting on her love for her father, Jason, and seeing the emotion on her face as she thanked you for supporting her mother, Sarah, and their entire family through the worst time in their lives was beyond words. That is the real difference



MATTHEW SONNABEND
CHIEF OF POLICE

you have made. That is the real impact of what you do. That is what your service is all about.

I recently watched the Ken Burns documentary on Muhammad Ali. While Muhammad Ali deserves to be remembered for his great accomplishments and witty banter, one thing he said in particular struck home with me. He said, "Service to others is the rent you pay for your room here on

Earth." I have been thinking about it since I heard it.

"Service to others is the rent you pay for your room here on Earth."

Certainly, service to others is what our job at the Barnstable Police Department is all about. Public service is exactly what we do each and every day. It is in our job description and it is something each of us strives for.

But.....

If service to others is the rent we pay, how much greater is it when we serve those that serve others? To enable them to do their jobs? Or when we serve those that they have left behind just as the Bluecoats have done for the Sturgis family? To me that is the highest form of service.

So, to those five original members, to those that have followed since, to those members that were gathered together at the annual meeting, and to those members that were unable to attend, I say thank you. Thank you on behalf of the men and women of the Barnstable Police Department and their families. Thank you for your vision, your dedication, your generosity, and your friendship. But, most of all, thank you for your service to us.

Sincerely,

Matthew Sonnabend

Matthew Sonnabend
Chief of Police

Charlotte Sturgis Presentation at the Annual Meeting

I would like to start this off by saying, thank you for the opportunity to speak. For those of you who aren't familiar with me, my name is Charlotte Sturgis, and I am a sophomore attending Saint John Paul II High School. I am on the Varsity Field hockey and lacrosse teams, and I am a part of the Senior All Star cheerleading team for Cape Cod Cheer Academy. By no means am I a perfect student, but I definitely put effort into my work to have a high quality outcome.

Two years ago on July 7th 2019, Jason Sturgis, the man I know as my father, passed away unexpectedly in Boston around 4 in the morning. After watching this happen to my best friend, not even a year prior to my dad's passing, I dreaded this nightmare to become a reality. My dad was friends with everyone he met. He never treated anyone different no matter how much he got along with one person more than the other. I'm not just saying this because he was the person that raised me from the moment I was born along the side of my mom, I really mean it when I say that he was the most giving person you could have ever met. I wish I knew more about what he did, and the work he put into the community before he passed away.

Besides entering golf tournaments, hanging out at the bar in our house that he took much pride in designing, and spending every free second he could with his family on a short sleep schedule, he fought for his town every single day. For about four years straight, my dad worked with the CIU, more commonly known as the Community Impact Unit. Although he faced challenge after challenge and put his blood, sweat, and tears into this position, he pushed through. Step by step he learned how to become even more of a selfless person. Obviously, as a child and young teen, I complained about the simple things that weren't worth complaining about. After my dad told me over and over again that I have it a lot easier than the families he works with everyday, I began to understand that I did have it easy, especially with a loving family. All my dad ever wanted was to do better, and utilize his kindness for the community. After hearing one of the speeches from the service, I realized how much the people he worked with



CHARLOTTE STURGIS

admired him, and appreciated that he actually wanted to help them. It truly made me feel like I lived under the same roof with a real-life superhero.

The day officer Sean Gannon was shot, I saw a side of my father I have never seen before. I didn't know my dad could show emotion in such a way. My dad asked my brother and I to always remember that the police are good people, and to never leave his side in this battle. I promised him I wouldn't... And I haven't. I never will. Just like in every single job, there are good and bad people, but it seems to just be targeted on social media towards police officers, and quite honestly in my eyes, at this point it's for show, and attention. If you can judge a person based on a video that shows half of the story, that's very immature. One thing I take deep pride in is that since I was about 14, I looked deeper into things and found myself listening to no one else but myself and what I believe because I wanted to have my own thought-out opinion; especially because I know my dad would be proud of me.

Due to the hate that has been thrown against law enforcement in the past year more than ever before, it's comforting to know that the Bluecoats of Barnstable take action. Since a large majority of people have spoken the words "defund the police," it fills me with relief to know that there are people like you all that give them needed funds. When my dad passed away, the Bluecoats stepped in and donated a large amount of money to my family. This money helped us keep up with bills and food for a period of time, and without that on top of money from fundraisers, we wouldn't have been off to a good start that fast. Members of the Bluecoats and the Barnstable Police Department continue to reach out to our family, and it's so amazing to see people who still help us get through these tough times, even though it has been two years. Your support has meant everything, and I'm sure even my seven-year-old sister would agree with me. Once again, I thank you all as a Bluecoat community, and thank you all for your time, but before I conclude, I want to give a round of applause to my mom for doing the best she can.

THANK YOU

to those members who met David McGraw's challenge at the Annual Meeting to contribute to the Endowment. To date we have added \$6,900 from that challenge as well as \$5,366 from those who added a donation to their membership renewal. Thank you!

Annual Meeting September 29, 2021
NEW MEMBERS WELCOMED
BY PRESIDENT SHARON HAWKINS
AND CHIEF MATT SONNABEND



New Founding Members

Michael Berube
Russell Cazeault
Paul Craig
Rita Jones
Robert Jones
Peter Lloyd
Robert Luss
Kevin McCafferty



Kenneth Anketell



Clifford Carroll



Laura Cronin



Linda Gadowski



Bob Jones



Rita Jones



Peter Mondani



John Ryley

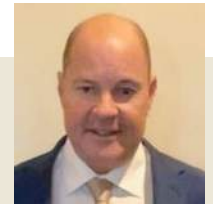
New Regular Members



George and Karen Jackson



Kevin Barry



Ronald Bourgeois



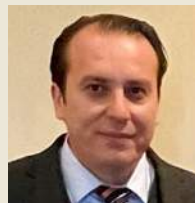
Linda Bourque



Daniel Cronin



Christopher DeLorey



Besart Kamberis



Diana Kamberis



Mark Kavanagh



Susan Lloyd



Michael White

Nicholas Anketell
Christopher Barker
Julie Barker
Lindsey Counsell

Celeste Derosier
Roger Derosier
Gregory Egan
Peter Fair

Todd Hemenway
James Hutchens
Lorine Hutchens
George Jackson

Karen Jackson
John Joyce
Sharon Kennedy
Barbara Luss

Leslie McCafferty
Karen Monaghan
Darlene Murray
Michael Preston

Sean Randall
Emilios Rigas
Glenn Tobin
John Viola

ANNUAL DINNER



The School Resource Officers Program



THE SCHOOL RESOURCE OFFICER PROGRAM IS A PROACTIVE STRATEGY IN SCHOOL-BASED COMMUNITY POLICING. The program focuses on creating positive relationships throughout the educational community with our students, our staff, and their families. Each of these officers works to create a safe learning environment in our schools through prevention and intervention.

Every School Resource Officer (SRO) is a sworn police officer, certified by the Massachusetts Municipal Police Training Committee. They have completed all required Basic Law Enforcement training as well as a specialized NASRO Basic School Resource Officer Course. The unit is led by Sergeant Gene Desruisseaux who has been involved with the group since 2008. His team consists of 2 full-time School Resource Officers, 1 full-time Community Resource Officer, and 4 full-time patrol officers that are each associated with a school in our town.

These SROs are an integral part of our educational community. They are counselors, teachers, coaches, and mentors to our students. Their specialized training helps them to recognize the diverse needs of our community and our school district. They are trained to identify and resolve challenging situations, using law enforcement only as a last resort. "My Unit and I have the best job in the police department. Each and every day, we go home knowing that we made a positive impact on a young person's life."
—Sgt. Gene Desruisseaux



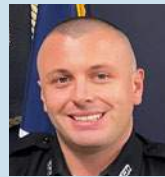
**Sergeant
Gene
Desruisseaux**



**Officer
David
Downs**



**Officer
Evan
Haussman**



**Officer
Liam
Loiselle**



**Officer
Brian D.
Morrison**



**Officer
Peter
Myrbeck**



**Sergeant
Christopher
Ross**



**Officer
Dennis
Stampfl**

Happy Thanksgiving!

Fall is the perfect time to be thankful for what we have been blessed with. I hope your holiday is full of love and joy.

YOUR EFFORT MAKES A DIFFERENCE

As a member you understand our history, our values, and the impact of our organization. Financial support is not the only way to help ensure the success of Bluecoats. Please consider referring quality candidates for membership to the Bluecoats of Barnstable.

Have a wonderful Holiday Season,

Cliff Carroll

Cliff Carroll
Membership Chair

Board Member Spotlight: Elizabeth Savoia Fleming

My husband, Rick Fleming, and I first heard about the Bluecoats from our friends David and Ree Hirsh. Although we both grew up on the Cape and have had businesses in Barnstable, we had no idea that a small group of people were quietly dedicated to supporting the safety and well-being of the officers of the Barnstable Police Department. We were intrigued and asked to join (or thinking back, David asked us to join, but made it seem like our idea). For the first few years we supported the Bluecoats by paying our dues and attending the Annual Dinner.

After attending a few dinners, getting reacquainted with old friends and making new ones, the Annual Meeting became one of our favorite Fall events. Every year, we were reminded of what a difference the Bluecoats make. We have many friends who are police officers and are familiar with the challenges they face on a day-to-day basis. Over the 40 years that Rick has operated Anchor Auto Body, we have been incredibly fortunate to develop a strong relationship with the Barnstable Police Department. While we've always



**ELIZABETH SAVOIA FLEMING
AND RICK FLEMING**

considered ourselves to be supporters of the Barnstable Police, we knew we wanted to do more.

When Ree asked for some behind the scenes help with the Annual Meeting, I was thrilled to be able to participate directly with the Bluecoats. It wasn't long before Rick got pulled in and became a "behind the scenes, behind the scenes" assistant. I am honored to serve as a Bluecoats of Barnstable Board member and Treasurer.

*Elizabeth Savoia
Fleming*

Elizabeth Savoia Fleming
Treasurer

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President

Sharon Hawkins

Treasurer

Elizabeth Savoia Fleming

Clerk

Jennifer Curley

Membership Chair

Cliff Carroll

Samuel Baxter

David Hirsh

Ree Hirsh

Rita Jones

Matthew Levesque

Honorary Member

Christopher Page



OYSTER HARBORS CLUB

**Annual Meeting
Scheduled for
September 14, 2022**

**AT THE OYSTER
HARBORS CLUB**

MEMBERSHIP CORNER

MEMBERSHIP LEVELS

REGULAR:

\$200 Per Year
(\$100 Additional for Spouse)

FOUNDING:

\$1,000 Initial Year
\$200 Subsequent Years

LIFETIME:

\$25,000 One-Time Payment or
\$5,000 Five Annual Installments

**Sponsor a new member today
by contacting any member of the
Board of Directors or sending an
e-mail to Bluecoats@comcast.net.**



17 LIFETIME **94** FOUNDING **212** REGULAR

\$436,606

Bluecoats donations to the Barnstable Police since 2005. Thank you, Bluecoats members, for your continued support of our mission.



PO Box 9, Hyannis Port MA 02647
bluecoatsofbarnstable.org
bluecoats@comcast.net