



The Broward Centurion

Volume 10, Issue 9 | September 2007

Farewell to a Friend

Sgt Christopher Reyka, EOW 8/10/07

By Chief Paul O'Connell, Parkland/BSO

On August 15, 2007 the Broward Sheriff's Office laid to rest Sgt. Chris Reyka. Clearly we have lain to rest too many law enforcement officers who have died too young. But this one seemed to have hurt beyond measure.

Allow me to tell you a little bit more about Chris Reyka, my friend and fellow road warrior for almost 20 years.

It was through my wife I first met Chris. My wife worked with Chris' wife, Kim, at Bendix on 62nd Street back in the 80s. At that time Chris owned his own landscaping business but he sought more (as any jarhead would). He rode with me as a civilian observer and we talked through the night about police work in Pompano Beach. He was hooked. Next thing I knew he was wearing Pompano Blue.



Sgt. Chris Reyka

During the great debate of 1999 and the BSO-Pompano merger that followed

Chris took no outward position. He cared not about the color of the uniform or the shape of the badge. He simply cared about doing his duty in law enforcement and making Pompano Beach a safer place in which to live. That was why, after the merger, he stayed in Pompano Beach. It was home to him. It was a challenge to him and he never shrank from that challenge.

Chris had his priorities right. First and foremost, he was a family man. His heart and soul were centered on his wife, Kim and their children, Ashley, Sean, Autumn and Spencer. The Reyka Family was and will remain centered on God, country and community. That was what Chris taught them and surely

continued on page 4

Deputy Still Critical After Shooting

Doctors "hopeful" about his recovery

The Hernandez family have been waiting for a miracle since August 6, when Deputy Maury Hernandez was shot in the head after stopping David Maldonado for running red lights on his motorcycle. It appears as if they may get what they've been praying for.



Dep. Maury Hernandez

It has been reported that Dep. Hernandez has smiled, moved his fingers and even given a doctor the thumbs up.

According to Maury's wife, Jody, his condition "continues to improve. He has started responding to commands and moving his right arm and leg. The

continued on page 5

In this issue...

Letter From Walgreens	5
Coming Together In Tragedy	7
Pompano Restaurant Feeds Detectives	8

BSO Update	10
Births	11
Letters & Thanks	12

The Broward Centurion

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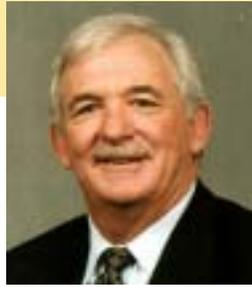
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- Submissions should be sent to:

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- Letters or articles must be accompanied by the writer's true name and address.
- All articles submitted for publication must be accompanied by a statement giving permission to publish.
- All submissions must be legible.
- The Broward County PBA reserves the right of the Executive Board or Editor to amend or to add an editor's comment to any article or letter submitted.
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President's Letter

The time has come in Broward County when we need to ask ourselves why there have been so many attacks on our police family. What has changed the attitude of those who have such disrespect for the uniform? This past month has been a very difficult one, attending the funeral for Sgt. Chris Reyka and praying for the recovery of Deputy Maury Hernandez who, at press time, is still in critical condition, fighting for his life. Reporters have called the PBA asking "why?". I have been unable to give them an answer, nor has anyone else that I've presented with the same question.

During times like this, my job as president is difficult, but rewarding as well. On the Saturday evening after Sgt. Reyka was gunned down, PBA Secretary Debbie Reggio and I called on Reyka's widow, Kim, to see if there was anything the PBA could do to help. Her expression said there was nothing we could do to ease her pain, but when I presented her with a check for \$30,000 from the PBA, her face was flooded with relief and tears. Words cannot express how it felt to be able to bring her some small comfort during a terrible time.

When someone loses a spouse it is devastating; often after the initial shock wears off the next thought is, "How am I going to support this family by myself?". This is why we offer the death benefit and why we get it to the family within 24 hours of the loss. It helps ease the pressure so they can focus on grieving.

At times like these I am proud of the PBA and what we do for our members.

Dick Brickman

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Farewell to a Friend, continued from page 1

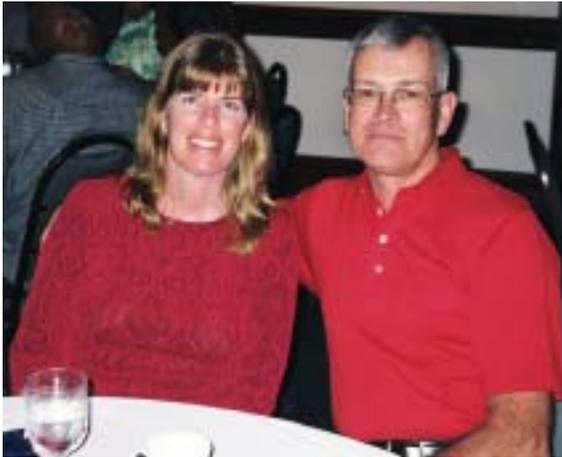
these lessons will remain intact through the generations that will follow.

Next, was his profession as a law enforcement officer. To him it was not merely a profession; it was a passion. On road patrol, he was not simply in drive; he was in overdrive. He expected the same from his troops and they rarely disappointed him because he led them by example; his boots were always first and last on the ground. He never asked someone to do something he was unwilling to do himself. Under his leadership the streets of Pompano Beach were patrolled by professionals committed to right the wrongs encountered, heal the wounds of a community detected and bring light to where there was darkness.

Then there was Chris, the friend. His compassion for his fellow man was unmatched. His heart was true. Chris knew and understood Emerson when he wrote, "The only way to have a friend is to be a friend." He taught this to his family as a father and he taught this to his community as a cop and a scoutmaster. Chris was the classic illustration of *Semper Fi*. Perhaps this is why his death hurt us to such an extent. Yes, our hearts are broken; but our spirit will remain strong, our determination will remain

rock solid and our focus on our duty will remain sharp. Chris would expect nothing less from us.

So you see; we are left behind to finish his work. Chris has carried his cross to the mountaintop and he has reached the Promised Land. Chris died as he lived, serving his fellow man, protecting his community and securing our



Chris and his wife, Kim

way of life. Chris has paid the soldier's debt and we are a better people because of his sacrifice.

Here is a message to the Reyka family: Do not feel alone because we are here with you. Not just today but for the years that will

follow. We will walk with you along all the trails in your future and your trials will be our trials, your joy our joy. Remember, the joy is in the journey and this will be a journey we will take together.

Here is a message to the law enforcement community: We must remain motivated by courage for courage is the one virtue that moves us forward. These may seem like dark times but only with darkness can there be light. It is this light that will guide us to that which is right; we must firmly believe that goodness and righteousness will prevail. Always remember, we are doing God's work.

Here is a message to the trolls that committed this act: You were motivated by cowardice because you have

no virtue, you have no soul. We will leave no stone unturned in our efforts to bring you to justice or, if necessary, we will bring justice to you. Either way, justice will be done.

And finally a message to us all carried down through the years and written by Thornton Wilder:

All that we can know about those we have loved and lost is that they would wish us to remember them with a more intensified realization of their reality. What is essential does not die but clarifies. The highest tribute to the dead is not grief but gratitude.

And so to you Chris as you enter the Promised Land with those who have gone before us I say: Until we meet again dear Brother, we remain faithful to you, the standard you set and the sacrifice you made.

If you would like to make a contribution to the Reyka family, you can make a donation to the PBA HOPE Fund. Make checks payable to HOPE Fund and put either "Reyka Family" in the memo line. All contributions are tax deductible.

Dep. Hernandez, continued from page 1

doctors are hopeful and optimistic about his recovery."

The family believes a miracle is taking place—one that is fueled by the prayers and good wishes of family, friends and fellow officers across the county. Your support and comfort has meant a lot and will continue to in the coming weeks and months.

Our thoughts and prayers will remain with Maury and the Hernandez family until his recovery is complete.

If you would like to make a contribution to the Hernandez family, you can make a donation to the PBA HOPE Fund. Make checks payable to HOPE Fund and put "Hernandez Family" in the memo line. All contributions are tax deductible.

A Letter From Walgreens

To everyone at the Broward County Sheriff's Office:

Our hearts are heavy as we share your sorrow over the tragic death of Sergeant Chris Reyka. Please accept our condolences and prayers and extend them to Sergeant Reyka's wife and four children. We understand that Chris Reyka was a particularly well-loved and highly respected officer. To lose someone of his caliber is an affront not only to those who knew him personally, but to all citizens of Broward County who live more safely due to the dedication -- and heroism -- of officers like Chris. Everyone at our Broward County stores and here at Walgreens corporate offices in the Chicago area is deeply saddened by your loss. As an expression of our sorrow, Walgreens is contributing \$10,000 to the education fund you have established for Sergeant Reyka's children. Our thoughts are with you all.

*Jeff Rein
CEO, Walgreens*

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10-206-05PGA

Coming Together In Tragedy

Community unites to help deputies' families

It is in times of trouble that we find out who our true friends are. In August the PBA family suffered a great loss and a terrible tragedy. But we have come to depend on the kindness and support of others to help us through.

As usual, Publix Supermarkets came through to assist us with the reception for Sgt. Chris Reyka's funeral. Our heartfelt thanks goes out to Richard Rhoads, Regional Director; Frank Ferraro, Store Manager—Store #509/Flamingo & Sunrise; and Mike Kori, Manager—Miramar Parkway store.

Many local businesses contributed food or other items: Guy & Lorraine Dimaria of [Frank Ristorante](#) in Pompano, [Mom's Kitchen](#) in Oakland Park, [Joe's Pizza](#) in Pembroke Pines, Guy Protano of [Protano's Bakery](#) in Hollywood, [Bona Pizza](#) in Wilton Manors, Scott at [Wings n' Things](#) in Wilton Manors and Mary Knaak at [Wings and Curls](#) in Hollywood. We greatly appreciate their assistance.

And Wal-Mart stepped up with their assistance. Thanks to Ray Base and Karen Lerner, managers of the Wal-Mart on West Atlantic in Margate and thanks also to the Wal-Mart on West Atlantic in Pompano for their help.

Other thanks go out to [O'Connell's Bistro](#) in Plantation. Owner Tom O'Connell has pledged to donate a portion of all proceeds earned until October 15 to the PBA Hope fund to benefit both the Reyka and Hernandez families.

The Law Enforcement Spouses Group has been raising funds for the families and are still accepting donations. You can contribute via PayPal: project11985@gmail.com or you can mail the donation to: LEOS, C/O Syliva Herring, PO Box 246531, Pembroke Pines, FL 33024. The group also arranged for food vouchers for the Hernandez family while they are maintaining their vigil at the hospital.

Special thanks to all of the staff and members who graciously donated their time and effort assisting with the Reyka reception:

PBA

Dick Brickman
Neil Vaughan
Debbie Reggio
Mike Casey
Barbara Duffy
Linda Brickman
Kim Hudson

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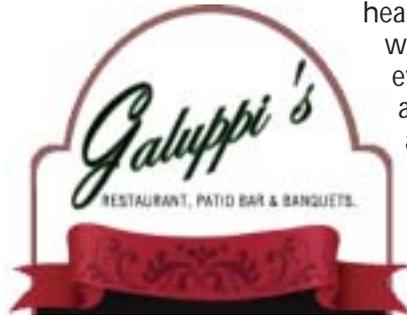
Images from the reception following Sgt. Chris Reyka's burial

Local Restaurant Feeds Hungry Detectives In Pompano Beach

By Pat Hanrahan

When Pat Galuppi, of **Galuppi's Restaurant and Patio Bar** in Pompano Beach heard about the shooting death of Sgt Chris Reyka, he immediately wanted to do something for the Broward Sheriff's Office in memory of Sgt. Reyka. As a restaurant owner in Pompano Beach for over 30 years, (Pat's Place) food was his best answer!

Over the years, Pat had become good friends with many Pompano Beach Police Officers who later became BSO Officers when the city merged. Chris Reyka was one of those officers. As the owner of Galuppi's, Pat got word that many officers and detectives were working around the clock desperately trying to apprehend the person or persons responsible for Sgt. Reyka's death. He had also heard that the officers were so involved in working the case that they were not even stopping for lunch or dinner. Pat and his son Grant, donated and personally delivered *over 500 meals* to police headquarters.



Our sincere thanks to Pat & Grant Galuppi of Galuppi's Restaurant and Patio Bar in Pompano Beach. If you are in the area, stop in and visit

Galuppi's. The restaurant features complete breakfast, lunch and dinner menu's, a Sunday brunch, live entertainment, a great sports bar and a fantastic outdoor patio bar along with complete banquet facilities. Galuppi's is located at the Pompano Beach Golf Course at 1103 N. Federal Highway in Pompano Beach. Check it out at www.Galuppis.com or better yet, just stop in and thank Pat or Grant personally.

BSO Detective Named NLEOMF's Officer Of The Month

Tina Lacertosa honored for July

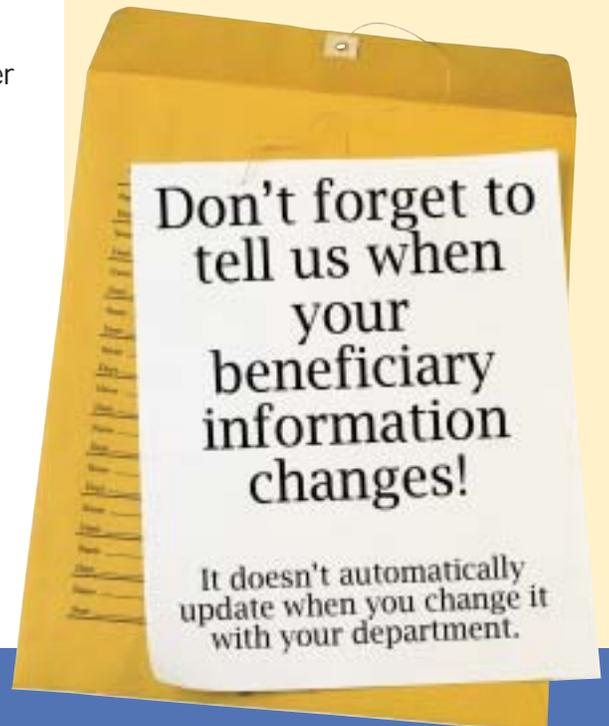
Detective Tina Lacertosa, who saved the life of 78-year-old Eric Eaton in March of this year, has been awarded Officer of the Month for July by the National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial Fund.



Lacertosa

Lacertosa performed CPR on Eaton after he was struck by a car during an early morning run despite the fact that a witness, who identified herself as a medical professional, told the deputy that the man was dead.

In April Tina was awarded Officer of the Month from Broward County Crime Stoppers. Sheriff Jenne has also nominated her for BSO's Lifesaving Award.



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Attention BSO Members

Update—August 2007

Your representatives brought to us a couple of questions on your behalf to have answered. We put them to Col. Auer, who responded:

Some deputies have requested additional lighting on their vehicles to enhance safety, especially on older units. These requests were initially approved by the various District Chiefs, but then later denied. District Chiefs do not have the authority to approve modifications or additions to any vehicle. This issue will be ad-

ressed by Col. Auer at a future command staff meeting.

Many members have asked about getting tinting on the windows of BSO vehicles. The windows on unmarked vehicles come tinted from the factory. BSO policy prohibits marked units from having tinted windows because it impairs night vision.

If you have any questions or any issues that you feel need to be addressed by command, please let your PBA rep know. That's one of the things they

are there for. If they don't personally know the answer, they will find it for you.

Rep elections were underway as of this printing. Once the votes have been counted and the eight at-large reps have been determined, those nominees who didn't win will be invited to run for the District seats along with any other nominees.

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Births

Congratulations to BSO Deputy **Jeremy Hansen** and his wife, **Kimberly**, on the birth of their first child, **Kaiden Maguire**, on August 9. Kaiden weighed in at 7 pounds, 12 ounces and measured 21.5 inches.

BSO Deputy **Joel Rivero** and his wife, **Maite**, on the birth of their son, **Aiden**, on August 16. Aiden weighed in at 7 pounds, 14 ounces and measured 19 inches.



Hollywood **Sgt. Karen Zorsky** is now the proud aunt of **Jordan Braswell**. Jordan was born on August 8 and weighed in at 9 lbs., 5 oz. and was 20 inches long.

Welcome to the PBA family!

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John A. LaPointe, PH.D.
Clinical and Consulting Psychologist
Director, LEAP

A Happy Ending...

T Tyler James Morris, born on February 4 at 27 weeks and weighing just 2 lbs., 1 oz., is thriving.



Tyler Morris

Tyler is now at home and weighs over 13 pounds. Tyler, mom **Julie Graziani** and dad **Travis Morris** (both with Hollywood PD) are grateful for the support and prayers.

9 1 1

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Letters & Thanks

To the members of the Broward County PBA,

I greatly appreciate being chosen as one of the Broward County PBA Scholarship Award recipients. I will be attending Palm Beach Community College in the fall, and will be studying for a Criminal Justice Degree with the interest of becoming a crime scene investigator. I will be using this gift to purchase books and other materials that I will need.

Thank you,

Jennifer Hanlon
Jennifer Hanlon

Dear Mr. Hanrahan + awards committee,
I was extremely excited and honored to receive a Broward County Police Benevolent Association Scholarship award of \$500.00, and I wanted to thank you for that honor! I was truly dissapointed I could not make the ceremony, was out of town for a college event. Thank you again for providing me with much needed financial assistance.
Sincerely, ALEXIS AUGUSTO

Dear Broward County PBA,

As an incoming freshman I would like to thank you for the opportunity to receive the Broward County PBA scholarship. I will be attending Tallahassee Community College and living in an off campus dorm. The money from this scholarship will go toward the expenses of living away from home and books. I would like to thank you again for providing this scholarship and the opportunity to receive it.

Sean Strzalkowski

Sincerely,

Sean Strzalkowski

Dear Broward County PBA:

I would like to thank you once again this year for the generous scholarship that I received. Year after year I am able to apply for this scholarship, which puts it above most other ones, and year after year you come through. I cannot tell you how much it helps me to be able to receive it.

As you all know, college is not cheap. After books, tuition, and food, it is almost undoable, but with your help I am able to once again this year not have to struggle as much to survive on my own. The money that I received from you will go towards mostly books, because they are very expensive.

I am hoping to be finished in three and a half years rather than the full four and because of that, it means more classes at one time, which in turn means more books at one time. More books equal more money, so all of the help I can get is greatly appreciated.

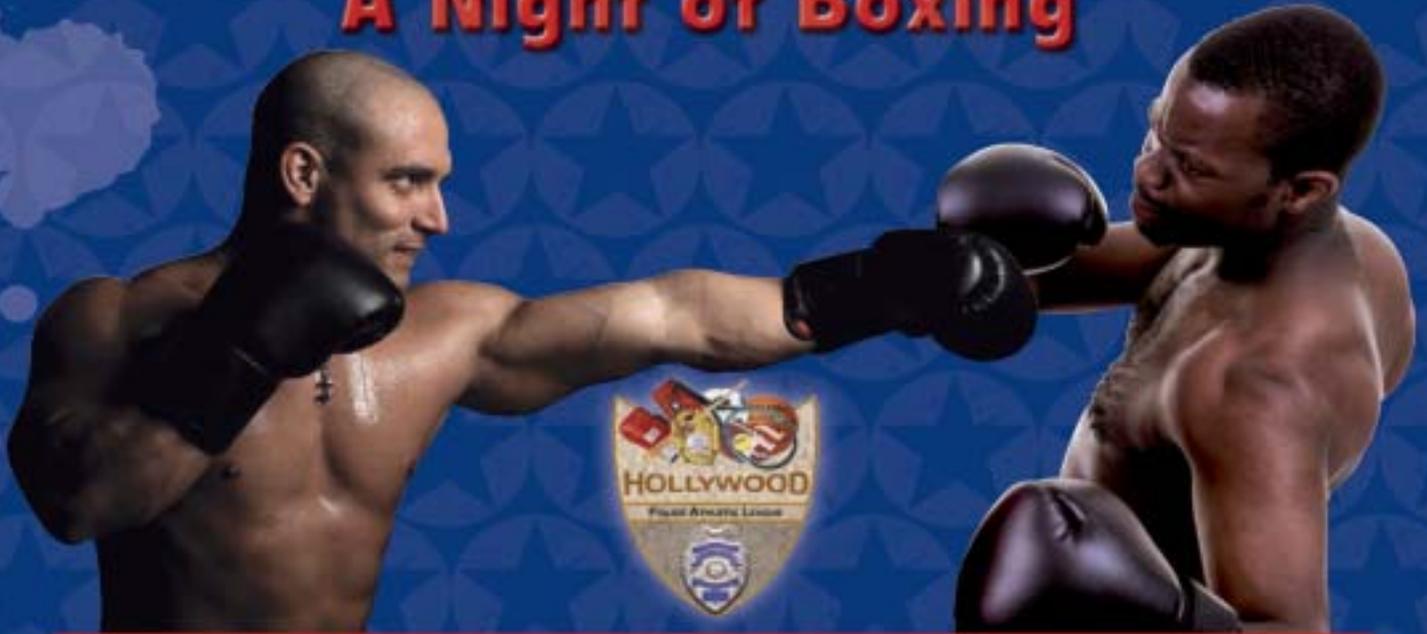
Thank you once again for the generous scholarship towards my college education.

Eric Strzalkowski

Eric Strzalkowski

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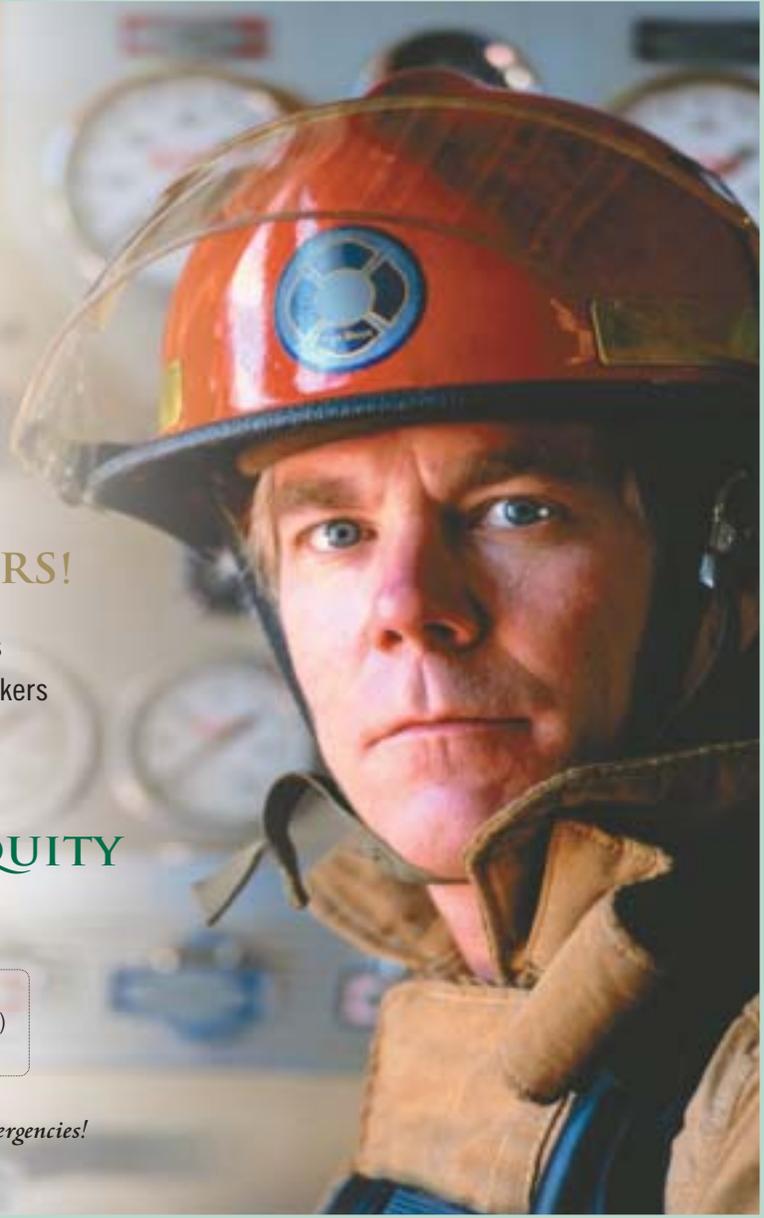
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Contact **Matthew Oppedisano** to schedule a **free consultation** at your Department, Home or PBA Office

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