



# ORLANDO POLICE DEPARTMENT'S ACTIVE & RETIREE'S NEWSLETTER

March and April 2008  
Part 2

POLICE LINE DO NOT CROSS POLICE LINE DO NOT CROSS POLICE LINE DO NOT CROSS



## OUR THOUGHTS AND CONDOLENCES TO THE FAMILIES, AND FRIENDS WHO'VE LOST LOVED ONES THIS MONTH.

Reverend Mike Brandubura, father of Internal Affairs Police Services Specialist Laura Bartholome on Wednesday, March 12, 2008.

Noel G. "Yogi" Moore on March 13, 2008.

Retired Officer Bill Eplin on Saturday, March 22, 2008.

Mr. John Brannigan, husband of Diana Brannigan, Fingerprint Technician on Monday, March 24, 2008.

Mrs. Mirtha Alvarez, mother of Sergeant Arnold Alvarez, on Friday, March 21, 2008.

Ms. Racine Daniels, mother of Detective Steve Stanaland and Ofc. Benjamin Stanaland.

Mr. Leo G. Faurot, father of retiree Gary Faurot on April 9, 2008

"Nicki" Neomia J. Roberts, 74, of Vero Beach, Florida, mother of Rachelle was an Intelligence Analyst at OPD until 1999 and Randy is a Lieutenant on the West Day Patrol, died Thursday, April 10

Mrs. Virginia Rushing, mother of Officer Rick Rushing, on Wednesday, April 16, 2008.

Mrs. Dorothea Pigman, mother of Lt. Rob Pigman, week of April 21, 2008.

Mr. Samuel J. McFarland, father of Officer Sam McFarland's, on April 23, 2008.

Mr. Bernard Lopez, grandfather of Officer Edward Rosado on April 27, 2008.

## VARIOUS OBITUARIES AND TESTIMONIES

JAY STAUB – JSTAUB@arinc.com

I wanted to express my deepest thanks at the expressions of condolence I received following my mother's passing on February 22. Although not unexpected, it was sudden. However, the messages of encouragement and friendship from my old friends at OPD greatly lifted my spirits. Thank you all.

Jay Staub

ARINC Engineering Services

(2<sup>nd</sup> e-mail)

We're apparently having our 40<sup>th</sup> high school reunion October 17 and 18, so I'll be there for that. The other thing is Mom's memorial service, but Susan hasn't scheduled that yet. We're going to scatter her ashes in the area of Longboat Key; probably June.

Like I say, we'll likely be in your neck of the woods by late summer. Keep your prayers going for that one!!!!

JS - (310) 726-1655



**MOORE, NOEL G. "YOGI"** 71, Maitland, FL, passed away at his home, on March 13, 2008. Yogi was born in Galesburg, IL to the late Marjorie and Joshua Gene Moore. He was raised by his maternal aunt and uncle, Donna and Remely Darmer, of Abingdon. Yogi joined the U.S. Navy in 1955 and was stationed in Sanford, FL. A graduate of Rollins College, Yogi spent 13 years with the Orlando Police Department, rising to Lieutenant and working as an administrative aide to City of Orlando Mayor Carl Langford. In 1974 Yogi joined Davgar Restaurants as Vice President of Marketing for Burger King, Miami Subs, El Pollo Loco, Pebbles, Harvey's Bistro and Manuel's on the 28th restaurants. He worked for Davgar for 20 years before founding The Moore Agency in Winter Park, developing marketing and advertising campaigns for the healthcare, banking,

engineering, insurance, tourism, hospitality and food service industries. Yogi went on to become Director of Marketing for Colonial Bank of Florida. He initiated and conducted numerous marketing, advertising and public relations activities for 43 branches in Florida. He also went on to direct marketing and advertising for Southern Community Bank.

Yogi was involved in many community and civic organizations. Orlando Area Chamber of Commerce (Past Board Member), Orlando Science Center (Board of Trustee), Orlando Regional Healthcare Foundation, Boy Scouts of America Central Florida Council (Past Board Member), Florida Citrus Sports Association (Executive Board Member), YMCA Golden South Classic Track Meet (Past Executive Board Member) Junior Achieve (Past Board Member) Boys' Club of Central Florida (Past Board Member), Orlando Amateur Athletic Association (Past Board Member and Past President), Orlando Touchdown Club (Board Member and Past President).

Yogi received many awards: University of Central Florida Sports Royal Order of Golden Knights Award, Golden South Classic Hall of Fame Award, Orange County Criminal Justice 1st Annual Chuck Brookfield Service to Mankind Award, The Jefferson Award, College Park Sertoma Club "Service to Mankind" Award, Apopka Foliage Sertoma Club "Man of the Month" Award, Orange County Sheriff's Department Service Award, Boys' Club "Helping Kids" Award Greater Orlando Phi Delta Kappa "Leadership in Education" Award, Apopka High School Service Award, Orange County Law Enforcement Council Outstanding Law Enforcement Officer Award, Jaycees' Distinguished Service Award, Florida Citrus Sports Howard Palmer Award.

Yogi is survived by his daughter, Kimberly K. Brandt, son-in-law, Gary Brandt, granddaughter, Kendall Grace Brandt, Orlando, daughter, Savannah L. Moore, Winter Park; aunt and uncle, Donna and Remely Darmer, Abingdon; loving companion, Donna Lovett. Yogi was preceded in death by his son, Kendel G. Moore.

He loved fishing, hiking, golfing, collecting antiques, FSU Football and sports of all kinds.

A man with great intelligence, warmth, and humor, he was loved by all who knew him, and will be sincerely missed by his friends and family. In lieu of flowers memorial contributions in his name can be made to the Florida Sheriff Youth Ranches, PO Box 2000, Boys Ranch, FL 32064 or the Hope and Help Center of Central Florida, 935 Woodcrest Drive, Winter Park, FL 32792.

A Memorial Service was held at Northland, A Church Distributed, 530 Dog Track Road, Longwood, FL 32750, Tuesday, March 25th at 1PM. (Published in the Orlando Sentinel on 3/19/2008.)

**FROM JERRY HASSETT -**

I was saddened to read about the passing of Yogi Moore in the Sentinel paper. Yogi was with the OPD for 13 years before moving on to other opportunities. Jerry Hassett Ret OPD

**FROM: EARLE SANBORN <earlesanborn@webtv.net>**

<http://www.legacy.com/orlandosentinel/DeathNotices.asp?Page=Lifestory&PersonId=105968926>

Attached in the obituary of Yogi Moore who was the Sergeant or Lieutenant for many of us in the 60's and 70's. Yogi was a very wonderful man. Earle Sanborn

**JOY AND JIM CARLES - jcarles@cfl.rr.com**

Thank you for this sad notice about Yogi. Terrible news for his many friends. Can you tell us how Ilona is doing? We had heard recently that she was having a serious problem with her liver. Thank you for all that you do. We really appreciate you!! With Love, Joy and Jim Carles

**R.D. King - rd.king@att.net**

If you didn't know Yogi, then you missed knowing a pretty good guy. Yogi, as a Sergeant, coordinated the off duty work at several locations, including the 1st National Bank on Orange Avenue (later to be renamed Sun Bank and finally named SunTrust Bank) where most of us got to know him. He was always fun to be around and a pleasure to work with.

King Horses - Nesbit, Mississippi

**TOM LANGFORD - TELSRI@aol.com**

I too was very saddened to hear of Yogi's passing! One important thing that was left out of all his accomplishments was the fact Yogi Moore also served as a distinguished member of the Orlando Police Civil Service Board. Many people maybe don't realize that as a member of the board he made many decisions that affected the lives of many OPD officers and their families. He consistently ruled in favor of the officers verses the OPD legal staff headed by Jodi Litchford! I believe he served as a member from 1981 to 1984.

Yogi was certainly one of the OPD Lieutenants that influenced my OPD career! Tom Langford

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**"NICKI" NEOMIA J. ROBERTS**

**(Rachelle was an Intelligence Anaylst at OPD until 1999 and Randy is a Lieutenant on the West Day Patrol. Received this today from Rachelle and Randy. You can reach them at [jazzysaint@mpinet.net](mailto:jazzysaint@mpinet.net)**

In Memory of "Nicki" Neomia J. Roberts  
November 23, 1933 - April 10, 2008  
Service Date and Time:  
Monday, April 14, 2008 at 10:00 am

"Nicki" Neomia J. Roberts, 74, of Vero Beach, Florida, died Thursday, April 10 at Indian River Medical Center. She was born November 23, 1933 in Tipton, Indiana and had been a resident of Vero Beach since 1971 coming from Beech Grove, Indiana.

Nicki was a graduate of Indiana University with a BA degree in History and Education where she worked for the Indiana University Foundation Office.

She was a member of St. Helen Catholic Church and the Lady Bug Society of St. Helen; she participated in the Monday morning exercise group at the Community Center. She was a member of the Hibiscus Club of Vero Beach and the Indiana Hoosiers Club in Indiana.

She is survived by her husband of 52 years, "Bob" Robert J. Roberts of Vero Beach; 2 daughters, Cynthia K. Burgess of Ft. Myers, FL; Rachelle R. Groetsch of Oviedo, FL; son in laws: Mike Burgess-husband of Cindy, and Randy Groetsch-husband of Rachelle; 2 brothers, Vincent Tragesser of Tipton, Indiana; Gregory Tragesser of Tipton, Indiana; 5 sisters, Bernadette Rash of Kokomo, Indiana, Kathleen Tragesser of Tipton, Indiana, Phyllis Glassburn of Tipton, Indiana, Colette Silence of Tipton, Indiana and Angela Hagerty of Kokomo, Indiana; 3 Grandchildren.

A memorial service was held at St. Helen Catholic Church on Monday, April 14th at 10 AM with a reception to follow in the church hall.

In lieu of flowers donations may be made to Indiana University Foundation, P.O. Box 500, Bloomington, Indiana 47402 in memory of Mrs. Roberts.

**From: Lt. William H. Wood - Community Involvement Section Commander**

On Wednesday, April 23rd, Officer Sam McFarland's father, Samuel J. McFarland, passed away. This email is being sent out as the memorial service will be held today at 1600 hours at the Orlando Bible Church located at 4405 E. Colonial Dr. Anyone wishing to attend this service and show their support is welcome.

As many of you know, Officer McFarland's mom passed away only a month ago. Please keep the McFarland family in your thoughts and prayers.

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**GEORGE "BILL" EPLIN'S (AKA "Frog") passing. Bill was a very nice guy, highly intelligent & only 55 years old. He will be missed by many friends and all who knew him.**

**This is what he wrote on his application when he retired on 02-06:**

I retired from OPD after spending the last year and a half assigned as the Sworn Legal Assistant and Risk Manager. I took a job with a local consulting firm called Gibraltar Integrity as President and I am in the process of building the business for them. I also teach as an adjunct professor at UCF in the Master's program for Public Safety. I also am in the process of helping my son and another young man market a law enforcement software training package. We are in negotiations with Sanford PD and Seminole County Sheriff's Office. I'll let you know how that goes later. We are looking for land in Tennessee when I finally get tired of work. I will eventually take a job at Vanderbilt Law School as a Law School professor if they will have me. I look forward to hearing from

you.

**A 'cop's cop,' George Eplin served with Orlando Police for 2 decades**

Steven D. Barnes | Sentinel Staff Writer

March 28, 2008

Article tools

George William "Bill" Eplin of Winter Springs was a cop's cop. Tough, smart and cool under pressure, the 30-year veteran of law enforcement was often looked up to as a mentor by younger officers and a trusted partner by his co-workers.

Eplin died March 21, just two years after his retirement from the Orlando Police Department. He was 55.

Born in West Virginia and raised in Baltimore County, Md., Eplin spent six years in the U.S. Navy before becoming a police officer. He spent nearly 10 years on the streets of Baltimore before joining OPD in 1985. During the next two decades, Eplin performed a number of high-stake roles, including extensive undercover work and serving as a sniper with the SWAT team.

"He has always been in some sort of specialized unit," said his wife, Amy Eplin, adding that her husband was dedicated to helping others. "He wanted to do good, but he wanted to change something . . . He was always trying to change people for the better."

Mark Spurrier, who attended the police academy with Eplin in 1977 and was later his partner for several years, said his friend was an extraordinary officer.

"I've had a number of partners, and I can't think of anyone who would meet his level of dedication or who you would feel as safe putting your life in their hands," he said.

While Eplin spent much of his adult life enforcing the law, he was also a student of it. He earned a law degree at Barry University, though he never took the bar exam. Amy Eplin said the education served him well in the job he loved, but that he could never trade in the uniform for a briefcase.

"He was destined to be a lawyer, but he didn't want to do it," she said. "After 30 years of putting them [criminals] away, he wasn't going to get them out."

Eplin also taught a class in criminal justice at UCF and volunteered with the Oviedo High School

ROTC program during his son Justin's four years in the program.

"He was always teaching," Amy Eplin said, adding that he was a wonderful husband and family man. "He was an excellent father – stern when it was needed, but loving."

Justin Eplin said it was impossible for him to express what his father meant to him.

"How do you describe your one and only hero?"

Eplin is also survived by his parents, Woodrow and Juanita Eplin of Winter Springs. National Cremation Society, Oviedo is handling arrangements. A memorial service will be held at 1 p.m. today at Northland, A Church Distributed, 530 Dog Track Road, Longwood.

**The complete article can be viewed at:**

[http://www.orlandosentinel.com/community/news/ucf/orl-bizdead2808mar28\\_0,6883832.story](http://www.orlandosentinel.com/community/news/ucf/orl-bizdead2808mar28_0,6883832.story)

Visit OrlandoSentinel.com at <http://www.orlandosentinel.com>

I got the below "Special Notice" today from OPD reference Retired Officer Bill Eplin's arrangements. Again, we send condolences his family, to all who knew him and those who worked with him. Below is the arrangement information and following that, I have included some Testimonies I've received from some of you.

**Funeral Notification – Retired Officer Bill Eplin**

It is with deep regret that I inform you of the passing of Retired Officer Bill Eplin. Officer Eplin passed away on Saturday, March 22, 2008. Officer Eplin retired from the Orlando Police Department in 2006 after serving 20 years. The memorial service arrangements are as follows:

**Time: 1300 hours on Friday, March 28, 2008**

**Location: Northland, a Church Distributed  
530 Dog Track Road  
Longwood, FL 32750**

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**Testimonies:**

**FROM: CHARLES RAHN:**

I am the one that interviewed and hired Bill for Mirabilis (Gibraltar). I will certainly miss him. He was a real good man.

Charles Rahn

**FROM: RICK OVERMAN – [roverman1@cfl.rr.com](mailto:roverman1@cfl.rr.com)**

This guy was one "can do policeman". He was loyal, thorough, and had the tenacity of a Tasmanian devil when it came to hunting down criminals...he was a good guy too...many could take a lesson from his work ethic. God Bless you "Frog"...Retired DC Rick Overman '91

**FROM: JEFF LAMEY – [LameyJT@marcent.usmc.mil](mailto:LameyJT@marcent.usmc.mil)**

I just got back stateside a couple of weeks ago. I had lunch with him just before I had left. It just isn't right. Thanks Guy Ann

R/S

Jeffrey T. Lamey

GySgt USMC

G-2 Operations Chief

U.S. Marine Corps Forces, Central Command

**FROM: MARY ANN SALAZAR – [mas@embarqmail.com](mailto:mas@embarqmail.com)**

Was Bill in Florida when he passed away? Do you know what day Bill passed away? Boy, you never know when God will call you home to him. This is a shock for me, too. Mary Ann

**FROM: PAUL BURDETTE – [Paul.Burdette@dorn.com](mailto:Paul.Burdette@dorn.com)**

Please advise when you receive any details on the funeral/arrangements.

**FROM: JEAN HOLLAND-ROSE – [requests@hollandrose.com](mailto:requests@hollandrose.com)**

Hi I'm so sorry to hear about "Bill".... Thank you for keeping in touch with everything.  
Jean Holland-Rose

**FROM: DONNA HOLLERITTER – [dholler@bellsouth.net](mailto:dholler@bellsouth.net)**

What an absolute shock! Is there anything about arrangements or whatever? Please let me know. Thanks.  
Donna

**FROM: DAN WILSON – [dannywilson@bellsouth.net](mailto:dannywilson@bellsouth.net)**

I just got back from Israel and saw this notice. I was shocked and saddened. Bill and I had spent a few hours together over the last few months dealing with some items of common interest. On one of those occasions I had breakfast with Bill and his wife at a Denny's on Red Bug Lake Road (he said it was their favorite place and that they all knew them). It was a nice time and the first and only time I had the opportunity to meet his wife.

We lost a great guy in Bill's death. Please encourage all to pray for his wife. I am sure that it is very difficult for her since it came out of the blue and he was so young. Dan

**FROM: BOB GREGORY – [opdrep@myway.com](mailto:opdrep@myway.com)**

I heard of Bill Eplin's untimely death from Deputy Chief Paul Rooney. I can't believe such a vibrant, intelligent and compassionate man is gone. Bill epitomized everything that the public expects from law enforcement professionals. We will all miss his sense of humor and in many instances his wise and thoughtful counsel. Life has so many unexpected and sometimes painful turns. This is one of them. My deepest condolences to his family. Rest in peace, Bill Eplin.

Bob Gregory – retired '04

**BRUCE PARKER – [bparker4444@gmail.com](mailto:bparker4444@gmail.com)**

Several of the guys called me with this sad news. Bill worked for me at MBI in the Organized Crime section. He was so great to work with, what a sense of humor. At the time, the Toy Story movie was popular and we all call him Buzz Lightyear. He even had a poster near his desk. If you think about it, the character fit him well, even though we all knew him as Frog. He helped me a lot in the tech end of things on the Crisis Team too. We all will miss him and I pray that the Lord will give his wife and family peace. Bruce

**HARRIET BROOKS – [brooksjohna@bellsouth.net](mailto:brooksjohna@bellsouth.net)**

I was deeply saddened to hear about Bill Eplin. I was privileged to have worked with such a talented and skillful person. Bill was a coworker and friend. I will always remember him. God Bless you, Bulba! My thoughts and prayers are with his wife and family. Harriet Brooks, Retired 2000, [brooksjohna@bellsouth.net](mailto:brooksjohna@bellsouth.net)

**HUGH ROBERTS - [Hdrclr9554@aol.com](mailto:Hdrclr9554@aol.com)**

Thank you, he (Bill Eplin) started the year I left. I didn't know him but will pray for his family,, Hugh

**MIKE ROSS – [Mrglkfl@gmail.com](mailto:Mrglkfl@gmail.com)**

Thanks Guy Ann, I am working that time but my prayers are with the family. Bill was a great friend to every officer. A rare and good man, you do not many people of his caliber or kindness. He will be missed.

Mike Ross

**TERESA SHIPLEY – [teresa.shipley@ocps.net](mailto:teresa.shipley@ocps.net)**

Unfortunately, I will be out of town on the day of the service for Bill. He was an outstanding person with incredible strength and it was an honor to work with him. He will surely be missed! Teresa Douglas Shipley

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**Leo G. Faurot**

**FAUROT, LEO G.**, 88, passed away April 9<sup>th</sup>. He was born in Moreland, OK and became stationed in Orlando in the Army Air Corps and remained here after his discharge from the Army in 1945. He spent the next 45 years managing the TM Britt Cattle Ranch until his retirement. Leo is survived by his loving wife of 64 years, Juanita Faurot; son, Gary (Deanna); grandsons, Adam, Ben and Chad; great grandchildren Mackenzie and Dalton. Because of his love for the TM Britt Cattle Ranch, a memorial service will be held there at the “Bunkhouse” at 11AM on Sat. April 26<sup>th</sup>, 407-380-8912. In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made the Russell Home for Atypical Children, 510 Holden

Ave. Orlando, FL 32839. To leave a special message for the family online, please visit [www.NewcomerFamily.com](http://www.NewcomerFamily.com).

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We send our heartfelt sympathies to all who lost loved ones recently. Life is so short. Be sure to let your loved ones know how much they mean to you while there’s time.



**RETIREE & WEBSITE INFO**

Don’t forget to check out our new website. <http://www.orlandopoliceretirees.com> E-mail me for the passwords. Feel free to call me at (662) 393-8476 or cell phone (901) 604-5204 or e-mail me at [OPDRA@earthlink.net](mailto:OPDRA@earthlink.net) Home address: 2140 Cedar Point Cove, Southaven, MS. 38671

**THANK EVERYONE FOR YOUR HELP WITH YOUR STORIES, PICTURES, AND EVERYTHING ELSE YOU DO! WE NEED MORE STORIES! THE NEXT NEWSLETTER WILL BE NEAR THE LAST OF MAY 2008!**

(Folks, my apologies if I left anything out or had any “Oops.” We love all of you and only want us to enjoy the memories and the news!)

**THE MERITS & AWARDS CEREMONIES ARE SENT AS SEPARATE DOCUMENTS. JOB POSTINGS AND OTHER MISCELLANEOUS ITEMS ARE ALSO PUT IN OUR WEBSITE [WWW.ORLANDOPOLICERETIREES.COM](http://WWW.ORLANDOPOLICERETIREES.COM) - SO CHECK IT OUT OFTEN! IF YOU’VE LOST THE PASSWORDS, JUST E-MAIL ME AT: [OPDRA@EARTHLINK.NET](mailto:OPDRA@EARTHLINK.NET)**