

The Sheriff's

# STAR

Office of the Sheriff County of Monroe



SHERIFF PATRICK M. O'FLYNN

Spring Edition 2014

## MESSAGE FROM THE SHERIFF

We have already completed an enormous amount of work in 2014, and will continue to do so because of the hard working men and women of the Sheriff's Office. We stand firm behind our core values of Respect, Integrity, Teamwork, and Excellence.

Similar to the message that was relayed to a recruit class earlier this year, "I love coming to work as much today as I did over thirty years ago when I first started with the Sheriff's Office, and I only hope that you have the same experience. Each one of you is given the public trust and special authority with your position. With the authority comes a responsibility

to hold yourselves to a higher standard than the people you serve."

The diligent work that we do has an impact on nearly all the residents of Monroe County. Whether that includes a civil bureau deputy working in the city on an

order of protection or a subpoena, or a jail deputy who interacts with an inmate in order to get them the help they need to become a

productive member of society once they are released from our custody. The list goes on. Our court deputies interact with family members who lost loved ones due to violence and they protect all of the inmates,

visitors, and judges who come into the Hall of Justice. Our police bureau deals with an enormous population when responding to calls for service all across this county.

I hope your passion and drive to continue this job remains as steadfast as my commitment to all of you. At the end of every day my goal and desire is to have you return home safely to the loved ones who support you and your important work on behalf of the citizens of Monroe County.



Sheriff Patrick O'Flynn

*"I love coming to work as much today as I did over thirty years ago when I first started with the Sheriff's Office."*

## AWARD RECOGNITION

Deputy Jason Elliotto was recognized in Albany in February as the New York State Deputy of the Year.

In January of 2013 Deputy Elliotto responded to a house fire in the Town of Chili where he saved two people from the burning home. One of those individuals included a seven month old girl. Elliotto rushed into the home twice despite heavy smoke and fire to free the two individuals.

This happened on Golden Road in the Town of Chili where Elliotto also serves as a volunteer firefighter.

The recognition from the State Sheriff's Association came during the 80th annual winter training conference for Sheriffs.



Genesee County Sheriff Gary Maha

Sheriff Patrick O'Flynn

Deputy Jason Elliotto

Yates County Sheriff Ron Spike

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## AWARDS AT CORRECTIONAL FACILITY

Sheriff O'Flynn and Undersheriff Sanborn were in attendance for a ceremony in March to hand out G.E.D. diplomas to inmates at the Monroe Correctional Facility in Brighton. The inmates were also part of a writing group and they read selections to fellow inmates and staff members. The inmates also heard from Vince McIntyre, the Chief of Security

Operations for the Rochester Police Department. McIntyre spoke of his own struggles with drugs and alcohol before turning his life around. The hope is that inmates won't reoffend and they get the services they need to be productive members of society once they are released from custody.



## POLICE BUREAU RECRUIT GRADUATION

Twenty-eight individuals graduated from the police academy during a ceremony at Monroe Community College in Brighton back in January. Several of those individuals are now Monroe County Sheriff's deputies and they started in the academy in February of 2013. Most of these deputies have already been on the job for several months, but this was a chance for their family, friends, and classmates to see them walk across the stage to officially complete their work in the academy. One of this classes' first assignment was to provide security and safety at last summer's P.G.A. Championship at Oak Hill Country Club in Pittsford.



Alexandria Baker, Spencer Bills, Parker Blackburn, Joshua Campbell, Charles Carroll, David Celeste, Andrew Charvat, Matthew Daminski, Timothy Fitzpatrick, Derrick Goettel, Kevin Johnson, Ryan Moore, Stephen Murphy, Nicholas Palmiero, Joshua Prance, Paola Saieva, James Shaw, Derek Smith, Katelyn Stevens, Lauren Udicious, and David Wood. Instructors: Deputy M.J. MacKenzie, and Deputy Tim Spry.

## SCHOOL SAFETY

The Sheriff's Office continues to have an important dialogue with all school district leaders in Monroe County when it comes to the safety of students, staff, and visitors. In January Undersheriff Sanborn addressed a gathering of school superintendents and security personnel to further discuss scenarios and situations presented last year. This "table top" exercise in January was a great way for leaders to experience an incident almost as if it was happening in real time.

This dialogue is extremely important since the safety of children and the people who teach them is paramount.

The Sheriff's Office looks forward to continuing these discussions with so many of its vital community partners.

A portion of the Undersheriff's remarks to school leaders is available for viewing on our YouTube page at [www.youtube.com/monroesheriffny](http://www.youtube.com/monroesheriffny).



**PROMOTIONS**

The Sheriff's Office is fortunate to have many talented individuals on staff who step up and take on greater responsibilities as part of their careers.

Already in 2013 the Sheriff has promoted at least 12 individuals to higher ranks.

**SHERIFF'S OFFICE PROMOTIONS:**

**Court Security Bureau**

Lieutenant Ken Willis to Chief  
Deputy Dan Woodward to Sergeant

**Jail Bureau**

Sergeant Maurice Leone to Lieutenant  
Corporal Pino Cardella to Sergeant  
Corporal Ralph Messura to Sergeant  
Deputy Michael Amico to Corporal  
Deputy Joedy Luther to Corporal  
Deputy Shannon Morse to Corporal  
Deputy Mike Scarpulla to Corporal

**Police Bureau**

Sergeant Mark Mori to Lieutenant  
Deputy Shawn Edwards to Sergeant  
Deputy Alex Metildi to Sergeant



**WATCHCARE PROGRAM**

Earlier this year the Sheriff implemented a new program to enhance interaction with employees. The "Watchcare" Initiative is designed to establish a connection with employees of our agency during times of joy but also at times of sorrow. Some examples may include; a birth, graduation, military deployment, a serious illness, or death. Participation in this program is voluntary but it's another step to ensure that

communication is made to support all members of our agency. Sergeant Dan Woodward from the Court Security Bureau was instrumental in bringing this program to the attention of the Sheriff and the Undersheriff. If you have not heard of this program or would like to know more, a "Watchcare Form" (MB-072-14) is now available on the Monroe County Sheriff's Office intranet. An employee can fill out this form and then give it to

their immediate supervisor. The document is then sent up the chain of command. Between the Sheriff and the Undersheriff, they sign well over 1,200 cards or letters a year in support of our employees, their families, and friends. This program has also gotten generous financial support from the Monroe County Sheriff's Foundation. They have purchased flowers that have been given to some employees or their family members.

*Thinking of You*





## GOOD NEWS JAIL AND PRISON MINISTRY

The volunteers from Good News Jail and Prison Ministry are a huge asset to inmates and employees at both the Monroe County Jail and the Monroe Correctional Facility. In April the Sheriff's Office recognized four individuals at the Good News Jail and Prison Ministry's Annual banquet. Ken Paynter has been faithfully ministering to the inmate population since 2003. Despite being unable to serve while Ken was battling cancer he returned, and he's been an invaluable aid to the ministry. Chris Ahern has also been volunteering her time with inmates since 2003. She ministers to the female population. She comes into

our facilities at least once per week in addition to conducting worship services for the female population on a rotating basis. William Blakely has been volunteering his time since the 1980's, and he continues to serve in several capacities. Thomas Yaw has dedicated the past ten years serving inmates every Monday and Friday. We value the work of all our volunteers in both the Monroe County Jail and the Monroe Correctional Facility, and congratulations on receiving a public safety certificate of appreciation from Sheriff O'Flynn.





## CRIME VICTIMS' RIGHTS WEEK

During the week of April 6th, the Monroe County Sheriff's Office joined with other community leaders to support National Crime Victims' Rights Week. This is done every year in April to honor crime victims and the nation's progress in advancing their rights. This year's theme was "30 years: Restoring the Balance of Justice." Monroe County observed National Crime Victims' Rights Week this year with special events. Victims'

Advocates Lisa Gerritse, Sheri Tehan, and Mary DeLella attended a press conference with Lt. Doug Comanzo and Captain Paul DeLella to honor individuals and programs that serve victims of crime. The Sheriff's Office also had representatives at a Crime Victims' Rights Walk on Saturday, April 12th at Highland Park in Rochester.



## POLAR PLUNGE

The Annual Polar Plunge took place in Charlotte along the chilly shoreline of Lake Ontario. The event benefits Special Olympics and it has grown over the years to include more and more men and women from the Monroe County Sheriff's Office. The plunge started in this area 14 years ago. This year the

Sheriff's Office was given awards for most money raised by a law enforcement team and also the biggest law enforcement team. In total this year's plunge raised \$300,000 dollars. Sheriff O'Flynn once again served as an honorary torch bearer with a Special Olympics athlete.

### GETTING COLD & CRAZY FOR SPECIAL OLYMPICS

- Oldest Plunger: Edith Donahue 73 yrs old.
- Youngest plunger: Calen Crane 5 yrs old.
- Team that raised the most: Team Rory
- Plunger raised the most money: Mark "Plunging Elvis" Hall
- School that raised the most money: R.I.T.
- Largest Team: R.I.T.
- Plunger who traveled farthest: "Wei Wei" from Taiwan
- Law enforcement team, raised most \$: MCSO
- Best Costume 1st Place: Frozen Ropes
- Second: Landsharks
- Third: What's in your wallet



Deputy Mike Favata (MSCO), Officer Walt Sanders (RPD), Sergeant Justin Collins (RPD), Officer Tim Pancore (RPD), Deputy John Watson (MCSO), Deputy Vincent Re (MCSO).



**S. O. A. R.**

**BECOME A MEMBER**

Sheriff's Office Association Retirees (SOAR) wants you. Are you preparing to retire or within two to three years from retirement? Are you uniformed/sworn or civilian? If you are, you are invited to join a great social organization. SOAR membership is open to retired and those who are near retirement. We meet four times a year to get together to see fellow employees for conversation and a meal.

We also try to keep tabs on contract issues both past and present. We stand in "Alliance" with all seven unions of the Sheriff's Office. Those of us who are retired can be there to answer questions for those of you who are planning to retire.

Most important, come out and join us for the camaraderie that SOAR offers four times a year.

For more information contact:  
[monroecountysoar.com](http://monroecountysoar.com).



**Retired Since Last Edition**

- |                             |                |
|-----------------------------|----------------|
| Corporal Joseph Borzilleri  | Jail Bureau    |
| Deputy David Byrne          | Jail Bureau    |
| Deputy Catherine D Ambra    | Court Bureau   |
| Deputy Jeffrey Davis        | Police Bureau  |
| Deputy CaSaundra Dorman     | Jail Bureau    |
| Sergeant Roger Hake         | Police Bureau  |
| Deputy Dale Hannah          | Jail Bureau    |
| Jerry Lancaster             | Staff Services |
| Deputy John Messura         | Police Bureau  |
| Sergeant Patrick Rickards   | Court Bureau   |
| Deputy Frederick Scacchetti | Police Bureau  |
| Deputy Todd Sutherland      | Police Bureau  |

**SENIOR CITIZENS ACADEMY**

Senior citizens from the Town of Henrietta completed an eight week academy class with the Sheriff's Office in March. The Senior Citizen Police Academy is held in different towns all throughout Monroe County. Individuals tour the jail, the Hall of Justice, the Public Safety Building, and several other areas of the Sheriff's Office. This allows them to learn more about the services that are provided to them, and they are transported throughout the county in a MCSO bus. Many seniors walk away from this program very appreciative of the opportunity.

Sheriff Patrick O'Flynn, Undersheriff William Sanborn, and members of the command staff were on hand Tuesday morning, March 25 at the Henrietta Senior Center Complex to give out diplomas, coffee mugs, and thank the seniors for their participation.



## PIRATE TOY FUND

Over the past two years the Monroe County Sheriff's Office has been proud to partner with the Pirate Toy Fund. You may hear a lot about their efforts around Christmas time, but their work is year round and it's beneficial to many children in the Rochester area. The Sheriff's Office has partnered with the Pirate Toy Fund Drive to distribute 1,100 toys. These toys go to children who may be a victim of crime, a witness to a crime, or a child who might be living in poverty. Sheriff O'Flynn says, "We are proud to be a part of this program. Not only does

this have a positive impact on children, it provides our staff members an opportunity to bring something positive to an otherwise traumatic situation." Children who visit the Monroe County Jail are given a toy when they enter our facility. Deputies describe this as comforting and reassuring for the children, and rewarding for staff members. Sergeant Jeff Klein visited New York City late last year to see the good work of the Pirate Toy Fund first hand. Toys were delivered to a church that's been built by former New York Yankees pitcher Mariano Rivera as

part of his foundation called "Refuge of Hope". We look forward to continuing this partnership and we hope that it can grow to benefit so many children who are in need of a smile. For more information on the Pirate Toy Fund please visit:

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

[www.Facebook.com/PirateToyFund](https://www.Facebook.com/PirateToyFund)

[www.Twitter.com/PirateToyFund](https://www.Twitter.com/PirateToyFund)

[www.Instagram.com/PirateToyFund](https://www.Instagram.com/PirateToyFund)



Sergeant Jeff Klein, Sheriff O'Flynn, and Gary the Happy Pirate at the Lilac Festival



Sergeant Jeff Klein with former New York Yankee Mariano Rivera



Gary the Happy Pirate, Sheriff O'Flynn, Otto Harnischfeger, RPD

## EASTER BUNNY VISITS HOSPITAL

Thank you to our friends at Golisano Children’s Hospital at Strong for inviting deputies and the Easter Bunny to visit with patients. The Sheriff and several members of his staff visit the hospital every year before Easter to meet with children and their families. Some of these kids are battling serious illnesses and we’re so appreciative to be able to spend a few minutes with them. The Easter Bunny handed out stuffed animal bunnies and blankets to the children. This year was

extra special for the Easter Bunny. One of our staff members wore the Easter Bunny costume and made blankets for the children to enjoy. Jennifer LaCrosse works in Staff Services for the Sheriff’s Office and she used up some fabric she had sitting in bins at home that she wanted to put to good use. She decided to make the blankets and donate them to the hospital. When she ran out of fabric at home she went to several different stores to buy

enough fabric in order to make 70 blankets. Jennifer spent \$500 to \$600 dollars of her own money to accomplish this, and she recently sent an e-mail to her bosses saying, “thank you so much for giving me the opportunity to be part of his years Bunny Day for the kids.” Jennifer also credits her mother-in-law Linda Brink for being a huge help in putting the blankets together and also donating funds to purchase the fabric.



## MCC SCHOLARSHIP CEREMONY

Sheriff O’Flynn, Undersheriff Sanborn, and several members of the command staff were in attendance Friday, May 2nd for a scholarship ceremony at Monroe Community College’s Damon Center Campus. The school has a Law and Criminal Justice Department and seven of its students were recipients of awards. The Deputy Galen J. Herren Memorial Scholarship was presented to Gregory DiPuccio. Deputy Herren was a member of the Sheriff’s Office and he was killed in a car crash in 2005. The Andrew “AJ” Sperr Endowed Memorial Scholarship was given to Amelia Garcia. Trooper Sperr was shot and killed in the line of duty in March of 2006. The Sergeant Robert Skelton Memorial Scholarship was given to Theodore Carey. Sergeant Skelton was a Monroe County Sheriff’s Deputy who was killed while on routine

patrol in 1972. Sheriff O’Flynn helped to present this award. The Jeannette Fuino Memorial Scholarship was presented to Anita Lenear. Deputy Fuino worked in the Monroe County Jail, and MCDSA President Wayne Guest helped to present this award. The Dennis A. Pelletier Memorial Scholarship was given to Anastacia Dixon. Mr. Pelletier was a devoted public servant, and he served as President of the Monroe County Legislature. The Carl S. Hallauer Endowed Scholarship Fund for Criminal Justice was given to Shawn Weaver. This scholarship was established to honor the memory of Mr. Hallauer in 1998 to provide assistance to MCC students enrolled in the criminal justice program. The Monroe County Association of Chiefs of Police Scholarship was presented to Tina Lee. Her award was

handed out by several police chiefs including; Brockport Chief Dan Varrenti, Webster Chief Gerald Pickering, Brighton Chief Mark Henderson, Greece Chief Patrick Phelan, Irondequoit Chief Richard Tantalo, and Commander Joe Morabito from the Rochester Police Department. Congratulations to all of the award recipients.



## TURKISH FRIENDSHIP DINNER

The Sheriff’s Office is pleased to continue a positive working relationship with the Turkish Cultural Center of Rochester. On April 25, Bulent Ozdemir presented a public safety award to Sheriff O’Flynn at an annual friendship dinner and awards ceremony. This dinner

was organized by Peace Islands Institute and was co-sponsored by the Turkish Cultural Center. This event aims to create bonds of friendship between people from all walks of life. The partnership between the Sheriff’s Office and the Turkish Cultural Center has grown over

the last year and a half. Commander Dave Phelps has hosted members of the Turkish community in his own home, and they graciously reciprocated by inviting members of the MCSO to “Turkish Day” on April 21 at Rochester’s City Hall.



For a complete list of upcoming events or additional news and information go to:

[www.monroecountysheriff.info](http://www.monroecountysheriff.info)

[www.facebook.com/monroesheriffny](https://www.facebook.com/monroesheriffny)

<https://twitter.com/monroesheriffny>

[www.youtube.com/monroesheriffny](http://www.youtube.com/monroesheriffny)

## DEDICATION TO SHERIFF MELONI

On Wednesday, May 21 the Monroe County Sheriff's Office celebrated the career of former Sheriff Andrew P. Meloni with a dedication ceremony. The Andrew P. Meloni Training Room is now located at the Sheriff's Office headquarters in Downtown Rochester. Several of Sheriff Meloni's family and friends were in attendance at this ceremony. Meloni started his career with the Sheriff's Office in 1955 and his service to the community lasted more than 40 years. He started with the Sheriff's Office as a clerk when he was hired by then Sheriff Albert M. Skinner. He was promoted to the rank of Sergeant in 1961. In 1963 he was a Records Lieutenant.

In 1965 he was promoted to Assistant Chief. He was appointed Undersheriff in 1968. He briefly left the Sheriff's Office, but returned after he was elected Sheriff in 1979. Meloni took the Oath of Office on January 1st, 1980 and held the job as the county's top law enforcement officer until his retirement in 2001. During that time Sheriff Meloni promoted Patrick O'Flynn to the rank of Undersheriff in 1988. Sheriff O'Flynn has served as our Sheriff since Meloni's retirement in 2001. Sheriff O'Flynn had many words of praise for his friend and mentor, "I can't say enough about all you've done for me. When we look back on the

history of the Sheriff's Office, we really can attribute many of the accomplishments and the achievements to the leadership and direction that you brought to this organization. With over 13 years as your Undersheriff, I had the privilege to witness first hand the love and dedication you had for this organization." County Executive Maggie Brooks echoed much of what was said by Sheriff O'Flynn. She said, "When I go out now, I think there are people who still believe we have two Sheriffs in Monroe County. We have Sheriff O'Flynn and Sheriff Meloni. He's been a mentor, he's been a supporter, and he really in my opinion has taken the reputation of public

service to a new level." Sheriff Meloni was appreciative of the honor. He said, "We have one of the greatest Sheriff's Departments in this country, and it's not because of Andy Meloni, it's because of many of you in uniform today who make this what it is." This project could not have been completed without the hard work of Quartermaster/Historian Todd Allen. People who visit the Sheriff Andrew P. Meloni Training Room will see a permanent display outlining Sheriff Meloni's years of service to Monroe County. A video and several photos from the dedication ceremony are available on the MCSO's [facebook](#) page.



## THE WAY WE WERE

Compiled by Quartermaster Todd C. Allen  
AGENCY HISTORIAN

### DARING JAIL BREAK IS BLOCKED

That was the headline of the final edition of the Rochester Times-Union on the evening of Thursday, March 17th 1927.

Earlier that afternoon, Harry "The Mad Butcher" Gordon and "The Lumberjack Bandits" were foiled in an escape attempt from the Monroe County Jail.

"Undersheriff (William) Stallknecht and Chief Deputy (Thomas) Woods were making their daily inspection of the cells surrounding the pit when they came to a third-tier cell on the south side (facing the river). They noticed some of the bars seemed to be marred. By running their thumbs along the bars, they found they had been sawed through, and the cracks made by the saw or saws had been filled with soap, to conceal them as much as possible."

Inmate James Francis, 23 (the leader of the so called "Lumberjack Bandits") was occupying cell 30 when the Undersheriff and Chief Deputy were drawn to inspect the bars after finding metal filings on the floor of the cell. A complete search of the jail was conducted with all the inmates being stripped searched but no saws were found.

### THE PLAN:

Inmate Francis, three members of his gang as well as Harry "The Mad Butcher" Gordon and a Joseph Driscoll, using an old practice known as the "Kangaroo Court" (A court established and run by inmates to punish their fellow inmates for jail infractions,) conspired to have Francis returned to cell 30. The location of cell 30 was critical to their plans. Contriving an argument with another inmate, Francis was "arrested" and brought before the Kangaroo Court in which Gordon was serving as Judge. Being found "guilty" by the inmate jury, Francis was sentenced to solitary confinement in cell 30.

Gordon's assumed role was critical as it was customary for inmates convicted by the Kangaroo Court, to be sentenced to a first floor tier so they could be more closely monitored by staff. It was never conclusively proven that Gordon knew of the plot and, although interrogated, he was never charged.

Prior to this event (about a week earlier) Francis received the saw blades smuggled into the jail by a female accomplice who had secreted them in a delivery of food. Francis had successfully sawed through three of the bars when the attempt was discovered. The Undersheriff believed that upon sawing through only two additional bars, Francis would have escaped the cell and lay in wait for the watchman (guard, later reclassified as a Deputy Sheriff Jailer) overpowering him and after taking his gun and keys, Francis would have freed the remaining conspirators and maybe all of the 62 inmates that were currently incarcerated at the Exchange Street Jail. They would have made their escape through a window and a fourteen foot drop to the ground and freedom.

Jailor James H. Bray  
Circa 1927



### EPILOG:

After a lengthy interrogation, Francis and four co-conspirators were placed in Solitary Confinement until their trial for their crimes and were transferred to Auburn Prison. The mystery of the location of the saw blades was solved when the saw blades were discovered in the plumbing of cell 10 which was being used as a lavatory. Although it is unclear how much longer this Kangaroo Court continued to be utilized, it clearly was instrumental in the conspiracy.

### AUTHORS NOTES:

At the time of this incident, the Sheriff, Albert Baker was traveling to Paris, France to bring back members of a notorious car theft ring.

Sheriff Baker would be responsible for the creation of the position of Chief Deputy and later, that of Deputy Sheriff Jailer which would replace the position of "Watchman." The "Jailer" title would later be known as it is today as the "Superintendent."

Sheriff Baker created the "Kangaroo Court" as reported on January 26, 1926 as "a kangaroo judge gives kangaroo justice before a kangaroo jury." "Convicted" inmates would receive a small fine, usually ten or fifteen cents. These fines would go to a "Tobacco Fund" which would be used to purchase cigarettes and cigars for the inmates. The "trials" were held after an investigation and "indictment" and were conducted in "the Pit."

Undersheriff William Stallknecht would be elected Sheriff in 1931.