



MNPD NEWSLINE

THE OFFICIAL EMPLOYEE NEWSLETTER OF THE MNPD

July 11, 2019



News from the Chief



One week ago this morning, an immense tragedy occurred at the intersection of Woodland Street & Interstate Drive. The loss of Officer John Anderson will forever live in the hearts and minds of us all. We will grieve his death until we, his brothers and sisters, leave this earth. Even then, his life and service to our city will be remembered by those yet unborn who will follow us as Nashville's Guardians.

This newsletter is dedicated to John Anderson. Those who gathered to celebrate his life and say goodbye on Monday at Cornerstone Church

were privileged to be able to learn about a truly special man and a dedicated police officer. There is a line from his autobiography that he wrote as a trainee that I cannot get out of my head. *“So here I am, on the precipice of starting my career. After several months of closely following the national news regarding issues involving police officers and the public, I am more assured that I am no longer “wandering” down an unknown career path. I am definitely not feeling lost as I begin this journey of serving the public by becoming a Metro Nashville police officer.”*

It was my honor to have been able to speak at Officer Anderson’s service Monday. I want to share with all of you what I said as a tribute to Officer Anderson.

John Ronald Reuel Tolkien was born in 1892 and died in 1973. He was an English author and poet. Among his works are the books, and now movies, *The Hobbit* and *The Lord of the Rings*.

So why my sudden interest in Mr. Tolkien, his writings set in a pre-historic era and a desire to see movies that I have had the opportunity to see in the past, but ignored.

Officer John Anderson led me to Mr. Tolkien

You see, we ask all of our new officers to write an autobiography. We want to know more about them—as they see themselves.

Officer Anderson started his autobiography with a quote from Mr. Tolkien.

Even though Officer Anderson has left this earth, he is still reaching out to touch us and steer us to new thoughts.

Now, I am going to pause for a moment and let you recall how Officer Anderson has, over the last few days, reached out and touched your soul.

I hope that you can hold that thought far into the future.

So, what was that quote that Officer Anderson found so defining.

“NOT ALL THOSE WHO WANDER ARE LOST.”

Why did Officer Anderson start his autobiography with that thought. I think he was forcing us to see him as who he really was and, most of all, to see what he had to offer the city of Nashville.

For you see, Officer Anderson did wander. Prior to joining this police department he wandered from place to place and from job to job.

He had lived in California, Colorado, Texas, Oklahoma, North Carolina, Kentucky and Tennessee. He had attended training in the Marine Corps and graduated from Western Kentucky University with a degree in Outdoor Recreation.

He worked as a sales person for Monster Energy Drinks and as a firearms sales person at Gander Mountain. He had lived and worked on the school farm where he managed rodeos and auctions and, maybe most memorably, at least in his mind, cleaned the horse stalls.

He had worked as a park ranger. He worked in a daycare center, working with kids from 2 to 12, what better training to become a police officer.

He was the “Risk Reduction Manager” at his fraternity house. [I’m not sure we want to know too much about that.]

Upon coming to Nashville he worked as a bouncer at Tootsies World Famous Orchid Lounge and later at the Swinging Doors Saloon.

Officer Anderson ended his autobiography by saying, “I am definitely not feeling lost as I begin this journey of serving the public by becoming a Metro Nashville Police Officer.”

That is certainly the case. For his wandering was not aimless. His wandering was with a purpose. He was preparing himself for this job. He was preparing himself to serve the citizens of this city.

And serve, he did.

He did great work every day, winning the friendship and respect of his fellow officers, his supervisors and members of the public he interacted with. These are some of the highlights of his career:

- For his actions in 2016, Officer Anderson received the MNPD Lifesaving Award for applying first aid techniques to a stabbing victim, stopping the loss of blood until the paramedics could arrive.
- In 2017, a suicidal man was contemplating jumping off the Shelby Street Bridge. As he leaned forward, Officers Anderson and Spann risked their own safety by grabbing him and pulling him to safety. Officer Anderson received the Lifesaving Award.
- In 2018, Officers Anderson, Bell, Hosey and Whitworth received a robbery call at a Tiger Mart. When they arrived, all appeared normal. But on further investigation found two robbers barricaded in an office. These officers secured the scene and the men were captured. Officer Anderson Received a Department Commendation.
- Last week, on July 3rd, just one day before his own death, Officer Anderson arrived at the scene of a vehicle crash. A van was overturned and a man was trapped inside. Officer Anderson worked feverishly to break the windshield out and rescue this man.
- He was a member of our Drill and Ceremony Team. Earlier this year they placed second in the nation, competing against law enforcement agencies ten and twenty times our size. Agencies with full time teams who practice every day, all day. I know he was proud to be a part of something that special.

During his career he touched hundreds and hundreds of persons who will always remember him.

I remember being a little jealous of him. As I looked out into the audience at one of our awards ceremonies, I saw Officer Anderson. He was waiting to be called up to accept yet another award. I took note of his mustache and made a mental comparison to my own. I had to admit, his was the best. But then, he was best at a lot of things.

In looking at the work of Mr. Tolkien, there was another quote that caught my attention because it so exemplifies the life of Officer Anderson.

“ALL WE HAVE TO DECIDE IS WHAT TO DO WITH THE TIME THAT IS GIVEN US.”

You see, life is quite simple, the only decision we are required to make is to choose the type of person we want to be and what we want to do. Once we do that, all the other decisions are easy. You just follow the roadmap you have laid out.

That is what Officer Anderson did. He decided he wanted to be a person that helped others and he decided that being a police officer was the best way to do that.

We should all be so comfortable with the decision we have made.

A final thought. In the early morning hours of Officer Anderson's death my mind was busy tending to the things we do as police officers and, actually, trying to comprehend a situation that did not seem real. Although we share a name, that was not something that I had thought about. It wasn't until a reporter asked me if we were related.

I replied that we were not. But as I heard myself saying those words I knew I was wrong--because I was feeling a kinship. It took me a moment to gather those thoughts and add, "Not by blood, but by blue."

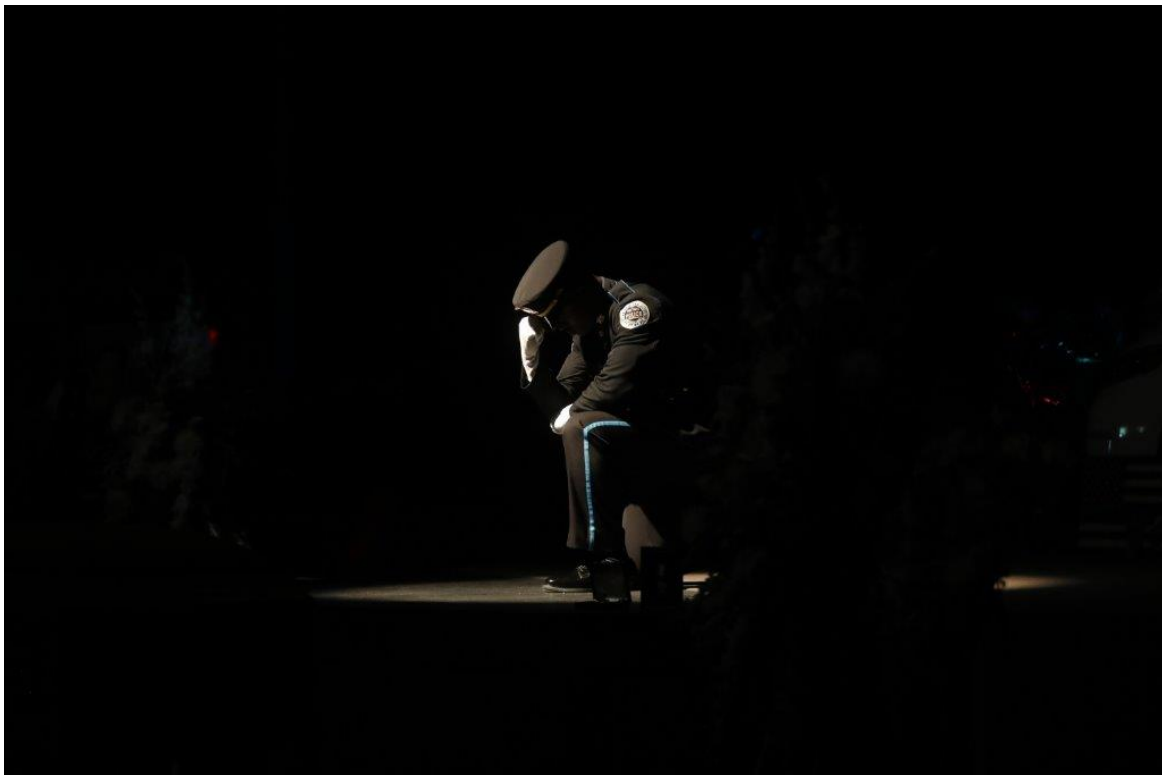
I think that everyone gathered here today feels a kinship with Officer Anderson, and by extension, with each other. That is what brought you here today. That is another thought I hope you will take into the future. Officer Anderson is still speaking to us today.

So I have ordered those movies and I am going to read more about Mr. Tolkien.

Officer Anderson, I hope I am inspired by these works in the same manner as you. For I think that all of us want to be a little more like you.

And, from all of us here in the Police Department and from all of Nashville, thank you John Ralph Anderson IV, for "wandering" into our lives.

There were hundreds of photographs taken at the service Monday. Here are but just a few that I wanted to add to this newsletter.







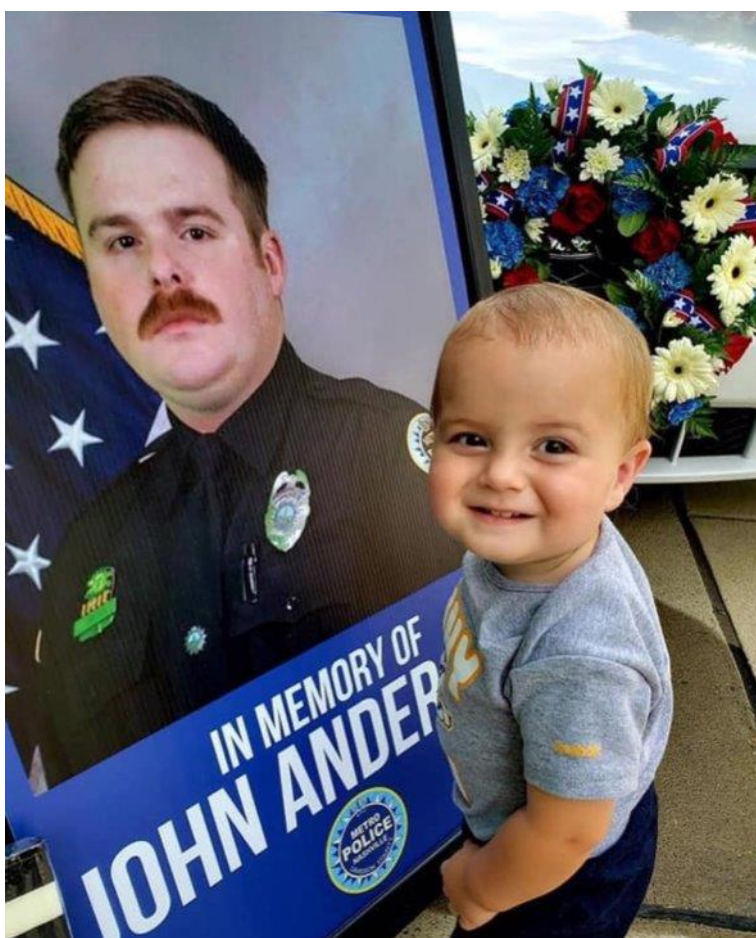












The men and women who worked with John Anderson at the Central Precinct returned to work last night. No one at this police department has experienced this horrible loss any greater than them. As I said at the beginning, we all will continue to grieve with Central's C-Detail.

While many persons had a role in Monday's Memorial Service, there was a key Funeral Command Team who began work last Thursday, some foregoing vacations, others returning to the city early from vacation, to plan, organize and ensure the service would be one of which John's family and the entire MNPD would be proud. This team, which included the leadership of the FOP, worked 12-14 hour days from July 4th through Monday evening. As Deputy Chief Johnson so correctly noted on Tuesday concerning all of the volunteers and their work, "I am humbled to be part of such an exceptional organization."

Going forward, in memory of John, there will be coordinated efforts to assist his family, including his 18-month-old son, Gavin. WKRN sponsored a day-long fundraiser in front of police headquarters on Tuesday that was staffed by our friends from area law enforcement agencies. The total raised during the WKRN fundraiser alone was \$18,594.27. Reed Trickett, President of the 100 Club of Nashville, attended Monday's service and spoke with John's parents. The 100 Club will work with the estate to pay any personal debt that John may have had. For those who don't know, the 100 Club was founded by Reed Trickett's father in 1979. It is always there for us in times like this.



WKRN fundraiser



Reed Trickett speaks with Officer Anderson's parents at Monday's service.

Like each of you, I am grateful for the support we have from Nashville's families and persons across the region. Thank you all for your dedication. I am grateful for our officers and professional support staff throughout this police department. Let us all continue to live in a fashion that will make Officer John Anderson proud.

Happenings

Youth Citizens Police Academy

Twenty-two young women attended June's week long Youth Citizens Police Academy hosted by The FIND Design (Families in Need of Direction). We enjoyed our time together!



Summer Enrichment Program

A great time was had by all as 71 students ages 4-16 gathered to learn about the importance of staying in school with emphasis on reading and the dangers of drug/gang

involvement. After the presentation the GameMaster showed up with D.J. Johnny for games and a raffle.



G.R.E.A.T. camp

Thanks to Urban Air for generously donating their trampoline and adventure park on June 18th in order to accommodate 122 children who participated in G.R.E.A.T. camp. Both the campers and officers had an amazing time!



Lending a Hand

School Resource Officers Julius Gallon, Steve Snitzer, Phouthasone Phantakou and Craig Oakley made sure that this “spilt milk” made it to its final destination. The officers stopped to lend a hand so the delivery driver could continue on his route.



2019 Award of Merit

Congratulations to Detective James Brown who recently received the 2019 Award of Merit by the Southeast Regional Chapter (SERC) of the International Association of Auto Theft Investigators (IAATI). He was recognized for his investigation into a multi-state stolen vehicle ring which resulted in the recovery of stolen vehicles valued at \$500,000! One suspect has also been charged in the case.



Precinct News

East

Officer Robert Croteau enjoyed hanging out with his new friend during a recent visit to Cayce Homes. East Precinct officers continue to make positive and meaningful connections in the Cayce community.

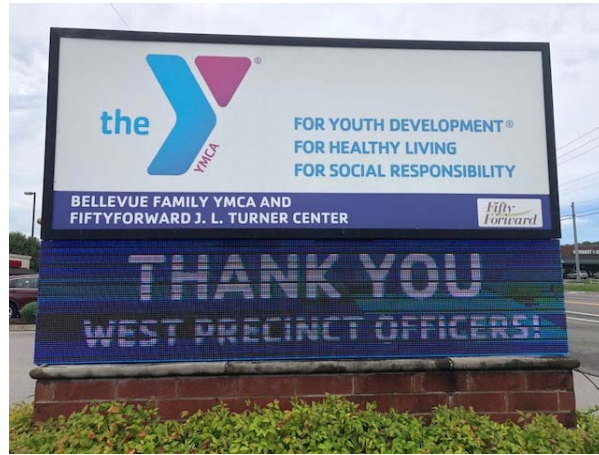


West

Summer fun as West Precinct officers took 20 middle school friends to the Nashville Zoo.



Thank you for the recognition!



Madison

As part of the Madison Community Center's summer youth camp, Community Sergeant Henry Particelli taught a three-day hockey school. The children thoroughly enjoyed their time with Coach Particelli.



Hermitage

Officer Abby Sawl making new friends in the Nashville community, including comforting the young man on the left whose family was involved in a traffic crash.



Folks at Charter Village Senior living on June 11th were pleased to have Hermitage Precinct officers join them for Songs and Stories, organized by Donna Backman and Eddie Killgallon. Madison Precinct Community Sergeant Henry Particelli performed his original song "The Good Guys" for the group of 60 seniors.



North

A second man was charged for the December 13, 2016 fatal shooting of Jermaine Ivory, 42, outside Ivory's residence in the 1900 block of 14th Avenue North.

Stephon Tucker, 22, was arrested on a grand jury indictment charging him with first-degree murder. Marcellus Eddings, now 21, was charged with criminal homicide in this case on December 14, 2016.

The investigation of Ivory's murder, which is being led by Detective Jason Frank, shows that robbery was the apparent motive.

North Precinct detectives on July 3rd arrested Blessing Burks, 18, for the June 25th murder of William Summers Jr., 21, in the 1900 block of Salem Mason Drive.

The investigation, led by Detective Jason Frank, led to the identification of Burks as one of the men who argued with Summers prior to the gunfire.

Burks is being held without bond on charges of criminal homicide and using a gun in the commission of a felony. Detective Frank's work on this case is continuing.

Midtown Hills

Kudos to Detective Chandler who led the investigation into the identification of 17-year-old Theoderos Solomon-Tefera as the person who shot a 41-year-old man during a robbery outside the Discount Tobacco Store at 15116 Old Hickory Boulevard just off Nolensville Pike on June 9th.

Solomon-Tefera was arrested on June 24th at his Swiss Avenue home.

The shooting victim and a friend were being watched by the would-be robber (Solomon-Tefera) as they shopped inside the store. When the victim's friend left and headed toward their vehicle, Solomon-Tefera, armed with a pistol, followed and demanded his money and debit card. Solomon-Tefera then went to the rear seat passengers and demanded their belongings.

The shooting victim saw what was happening, ran up to Solomon-Tefera, and attempted to wrestle him to the ground. He fired two shots, both of which struck the victim, who was rushed to Vanderbilt University Medical Center for treatment.

Solomon-Tefera is charged at Juvenile Court with especially aggravated robbery, three counts of aggravated robbery, and unlawful gun possession.

A strange anonymous tip about two men loading a body into the trunk of a Honda Accord outside a Sidco Drive motel led to the arrests of two Nashville men on meth and heroin charges.

Midtown Hills Precinct officers spotted the Accord as it was pulling out of the motel parking lot and discreetly followed it until a precinct undercover detective took over. While on I-440 east, the Honda struck another vehicle and kept going. At that point, the undercover detective activated his emergency equipment and stopped the car for the hit & run

offense. Inside the car were two socks, one containing 51 grams of meth, the other 4 grams of heroin. In the trunk was a digital scale.

Arrested were Randall Gilmer, 40, of Riverside Road, and Demario Maxwell, 30, of Country Way Road. In addition to the felony drug counts, Gilmer was also charged with the hit & run.

Investigation by Midtown Hills Precinct undercover detectives led to the arrests of two 16-year-olds and the recovery of two guns, including an AR-15 rifle.

Detectives developed information that one of the teens, who was on probation for a January gun possession arrest, was again armed. When they arrived at the teen's East Nashville residence, he threw a loaded .38 caliber pistol to the ground and fled on foot. He got into a vehicle driven by the second teen. The driver was apprehended a few blocks away and the second teen surrendered himself several hours later.

Recovered from the vehicle were a small amount of marijuana, a digital scale, and a loaded AR-15 rifle.

Both teens are charged in Juvenile Court. The driver is charged with marijuana possession, reckless driving, unlawful possession of drug paraphernalia, and felony weapon possession. The second teen is charged with evading arrest and unlawful handgun possession (second offense).



Remember those five teenagers arrested June 15th on gun charges after officers found three loaded semi-automatic pistols concealed inside a large teddy bear? Three of them are in trouble again, this time for auto theft.

Midtown Hills Precinct detectives on July 9th charged five teens (three 14-year-olds and two 15-year-olds) with auto theft in relation to a stolen 2013 Subaru Forrester. Officers found the locked stolen vehicle near 11th Avenue South and Horton Avenue.

After checking area surveillance camera footage, several young men were seen getting out of the stolen Subaru. It was determined that they went into an apartment on 14th Avenue South (the same Apartment from last month where the guns were found). All five were detained. None was interested in talking to officers about the stolen vehicle.

Three of the five (two 15-year-olds and one 14-year-old) were charged last month with multiple counts of unlawful gun possession and theft. Two of the guns concealed in the teddy bear were stolen.

South

We enjoyed a great turnout for Coffee with a Cop at the Mill Towne Center Starbucks on Nolensville Pike. Thanks to all who paid us a visit!



Domestic Violence Division

Domestic Violence detectives and the MNPD's Family Intervention Program's Sharill Jones on June 15th attended Strong Families & Cease Fire Day hosted by the Organized Neighbors of Edgehill.



Warrants Division

The Guardian Bear dons his life jacket to encourage summer safety in all water activities!



Congratulations:



Officer Douglas Sykes and his wife, Lauren, Midtown Hills Precinct, welcomed their daughter on June 13th.

Condolences:

Retired United States Airforce Captain L. Brent Lokey, the father of Midtown Hills Precinct Commander Kay Lokey, passed away on July 7th.

Frank Wilkinson Sr., the grandfather of Nicholas McCluskey, Hermitage Precinct, passed away on June 15th.

Jerry Glenn Hughes Sr., the grandfather of Detective Jefferson Hughes, South Investigations, passed away on June 21st.

Dr. Glen Langer, the grandfather of Julie Wakeman, Domestic Violence Division, passed away.

Retired Lieutenant Bobby Kephart passed away on June 30th. He retired in 1995 after 30 years of service.

Retired Officer Raymond Cox passed away on July 4th. He retired in 2002 after 26 years of service.