

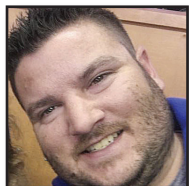
THOSE WE HONOR IN 2016

THIS YEAR ALONE, WE ADDED FOUR FAMILIES OF FALLEN HEROES TO THOSE WE ASSIST. IN ADDITION, WE PROVIDED ASSISTANCE TO TWO OFFICERS WHO WERE CATASTROPHICALLY INJURED PERFORMING THEIR DUTY.



Officer Ronald Strittmatter
Lakeshire Police Department
EOW 1/3/15

Officer Ronald Strittmatter of the Lakeshire Police Department died in the line of duty of a heart attack following a shift during which he was on multiple calls. Officer Strittmatter retired from the St. Louis Metropolitan Police Department after 24 years of service and had served with the Lakeshire Police Department for 4 years. He is survived by his wife and son, both of whom are police officers in The BackStoppers coverage area.



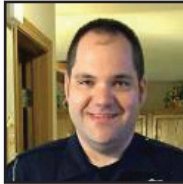
Paramedic Jonathan Noce
Joachim-Plattin Ambulance District
EOW 5/25/16

Paramedic Jonathan Noce of the Joachim-Plattin Ambulance District died in the line of duty while serving full-time with the Joachim-Plattin Ambulance District and part-time with the Osage County Ambulance District. He is survived by his wife and two daughters.



Deputy Sheriff Paul Clark
St. Francois County Sheriff's Department
EOW 7/4/16

Deputy Sheriff Paul Clark of the St. Francois County Sheriff's Department died in the line of duty as a result of injuries sustained months prior when he was intentionally struck by a suspect fleeing a traffic stop. Deputy Clark was an 18-year veteran of law enforcement. He served with the St. Francois County Sheriff's Department for 13 years and had previously served with the Park Hills Police Department for five years. He leaves behind his wife and two adult children.



Officer Michael Flamion
Ballwin Police Department
Catastrophically injured on 7/8/16

Officer Michael Flamion of the Ballwin Police Department was catastrophically injured in the line of duty when he was shot at a traffic stop. He suffered paralysis from the neck down. Officer Flamion is a nine-year veteran of law enforcement who joined the Ballwin Police Department in 2014 and previously served with the De Soto Police Department for seven years.



Officer Craig Tudor
Hazelwood Police Department
Catastrophically injured on 8/25/16

Officer Craig Tudor of the Hazelwood Police Department was catastrophically injured in the line of duty in an automobile collision while responding to an emergency call. He has been paralyzed. Officer Tudor is an 11-year veteran of the Hazelwood Police Department.



Officer Blake Snyder
St. Louis County Police Department
EOW 10/6/16

Officer Blake Snyder of the St. Louis County Police Department was shot and killed in the line of duty while responding to a call. A suspect opened fire on Officer Snyder upon his arrival on the scene. Officer Snyder served with the St. Louis County Police Department for 4 years. He is survived by his wife and young son.

THESE HEROES LOST THEIR LIVES AND SUFFERED CATASTROPHIC INJURIES SERVING OUR COMMUNITY AND KEEPING US SAFE. WE BELIEVE WE HAVE A RESPONSIBILITY TO CARE FOR THE LOVED ONES OF THE FALLEN AND PROVIDE ASSISTANCE TO THOSE WHO SUFFERED LIFE-ALTERING TRAGEDIES. JOIN US IN OUR CAUSE OF HONORING THE HEROES WHO HAVE SUFFERED CATASTROPHIC INJURIES AND HAVE MADE THE ULTIMATE SACRIFICE FOR OUR SAFETY.

30 YEARS OF GUNS 'N HOSES

For thirty years, Budweiser Guns 'N Hoses has ushered in the holiday season with exciting boxing matches between police officers, firefighters, and EMS personnel. From its scaled-down inception in 1987 to this year's 30th Anniversary event that pulled out all the stops, the annual boxing match has delivered a fun night for a great cause.

Guns 'N Hoses' grand total raised for The BackStoppers since 1987 nears an incredible \$5.5 million, with this year's proceeds yet to be finalized. The significance of this support cannot be overstated. We rely on the fantastic support from Guns 'N Hoses to provide our on-going assistance.

Thank you, St. Louis Guns 'N Hoses! We're so very grateful for the efforts of each committee member. Thank you, first responders, for training and fighting in the boxing matches and MMA bouts. And thank you to everyone in the enthusiastic crowd at Scottrade Center each Thanksgiving Eve. Congratulations, Guns 'N Hoses, on 30 great years!



COMING UP

Membership Renewal

Watch for Member Renewal forms mailing to existing members in early 2017.

Annual Membership Dinner

The Annual Membership Dinner is scheduled for Thursday, May 18th at the Chase Park Plaza. Col. Jon Belmar, Chief of the St. Louis County Police Department, will be the guest speaker. Members will receive invitations in the spring.



THE BACKSTOPPERS, INC.
POLICE OFFICERS' &
FIREFIGHTERS' FUND

10411 Clayton Rd., Ste A5
Saint Louis, MO 63131
314.692.0200
www.BackStoppers.org

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FROM GUNS 'N HOSES TO PRO

It's not every day that the firefighters and police officers who box or fight in MMA bouts at Budweiser Guns 'N Hoses go pro, but that's exactly what Kelly did.

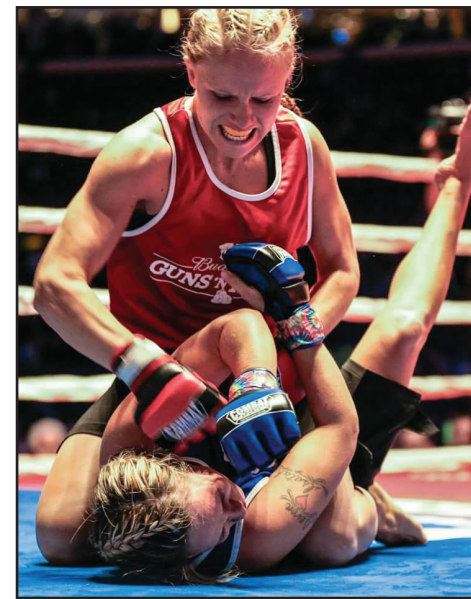
Kelly D'Angelo is a full-time firefighter with the Richmond Heights Fire Department. She has served as both a volunteer and professional firefighter and EMT since 2005. Six years after she first found her passion for firefighting, Kelly was introduced to amateur boxing through Guns 'N Hoses. She has competed in Gun 'N Hoses boxing and MMA bouts four times, and won every one of them.

Undeclared in her amateur boxing and MMA career, nominated for the 2015 St. Louis Amateur of the Year, and holding the Cage Championships Women's 115-pound title, Kelly set her sights on her pro debut. The strawweight bout was set for September 30th, 2016 at the RFA: Resurrection Fighting Alliance 44 at the St. Charles Convention Center. Kelly prepared to take on Emily Whitmore on the main card.

To mark the occasion, friends and family wore T-shirts in support of Kelly. Proceeds from the T-shirt sales were donated to The BackStoppers. Rumble Time Promotions donated \$5 of every ticket sold for Kelly to BackStoppers, as well.

Kelly won her pro debut, defeating Whitmore with what's termed a Guillotine Choke in the second round. She remains undefeated and surely has a successful professional MMA career ahead of her. She also has a great support system in husband Jimmy D'Angelo, a fellow firefighter and Guns 'N Hoses participant who doubles as her manager and sparring partner.

Spectating at this year's November 11th Guns 'N Hoses Box Off to determine the match-ups at the main event, Kelly said she's unable to continue to fight in Budweiser Guns 'N Hoses now that she's pro, but she'll be there every year to cheer on the first responders that make up the 15-bout fight card.



FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



During the holiday season, we take time to reflect on the closing year and all for which we're grateful. Undoubtedly, our community and the support you've shown stands out above all else.

This year, we have seen support like no other in the form of donations, memberships, fundraisers, social media outreach, and kind words. The generosity of our donors and members is tremendous. The number of events and collections organized by individuals and businesses throughout our coverage area has been truly impressive. We recognize the time, effort, and sacrifice this support requires. We are overwhelmed with gratitude for your commitment to first responders and to our mission; to provide needed financial assistance and support to families of first responders who have fallen or suffered a catastrophic injury in the line of duty. Please let us take this opportunity to extend our deepest thanks for this incredible support of The BackStoppers. Thank you!! Your donations, fundraisers, and help in spreading our message have a real and tangible impact on the families we serve.

We are also grateful and pleased to announce that, because of your dedication to our mission, our second annual Member Drive was a success. The membership drive offered new benefits of membership at every level. You joined and upgraded in record numbers, and we far exceeded our goal for the 2016 Member Drive. Thank you to everyone who became a BackStopper, renewed your membership, or upgraded your member level this fall.

In the wake of the senseless tragedies forced on the first responders who protect us, our community rallied together. We ask you to continue to rally together for the families of the four fallen heroes and two catastrophically injured heroes we began assisting this year, as well as each of the now 81 families with 66 dependent children we assist. We are very proud of our community and grateful for your commitment to our cause. On behalf of the families we serve, thank you for your unending generosity!

Ron Battelle

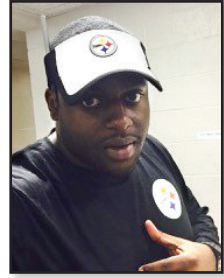
Chief Ron Battelle, Executive Director

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ON THE PATH TO HEAD COACH



Denzel Martin is following his dream of becoming a Head Coach in the NFL. He's currently a Scout for the Pittsburgh Steelers, a job he loves. Denzel credits what he learned from his father, Captain Derek Martin of the St. Louis Fire Department, EOW 5/3/02, with leading him to this exciting Scout position and path to his goal of Head Coach.

Denzel has loved football since the day he was born. He began playing in seventh grade as a running back, linebacker, and long snapper. He then played the same positions for four years at Chaminade College Preparatory and was a walk-on linebacker at Mizzou.

Now, as a Steelers Scout, Denzel evaluates college football talent looking for the next great player. General Manager Kevin Colbert trusts him to observe players both at practice and in games, write up his findings, and read his reports during draft meetings. He works closely with Head Coach Mike Tomlin each week, providing specific plays to prepare for their next opponent. He also attends team practice and meetings every day.

Denzel speaks with pride about his job, "General Manager Colbert, Coach Tomlin, and the Rooney family who owns the franchise are great and down to earth. They are always willing to help, and want to make sure I succeed. All of our guys are playing extremely hard every week and we are working every day to get better. It's been great for me watching the best players in the world play on Sundays!" When asked about the best part of the job, Denzel effuses, "What I love most about my job is that it's football! Plain and simple, there is no downside to doing anything football in the NFL." While he couldn't be happier and the Scout position presents no real challenges for him, there are some uncomfortable moments. "The most uncomfortable thing I had to do was let the players know, one by one, that the General Manager needed to talk to them to be cut from the team." Denzel says he loves working for the Steelers and wishes he could stay there his whole career as he moves towards realizing his dream of becoming a Head Coach.



"I have always seen myself in the NFL as a coach," Denzel says. "Being a Scout is a path to my end goal." Denzel started on that path earlier this year when he assisted with Draft Day and was offered the Scout position. Before that, he interned with the Steelers for two weeks; an opportunity he earned by drawing on what he'd learned from his father. "My dad never met a stranger and would talk and make others always feel at ease. This is how I caught the attention of Steelers Head Coach Mike Tomlin." He explains, "Coach Tomlin and his staff came to Mizzou for our Pro Day that year for senior and junior players hoping to play in the NFL. My roommate Markus Golden, now a linebacker with the Arizona Cardinals, was one of the many working out. Coach Tomlin said he observed me the whole time and wanted me to be a part of the organization. A few weeks later, I received a call for training camp internships."

What Denzel learned from his father, an 11-year veteran of the St. Louis Fire Department who died in the line of duty attempting to rescue a fellow firefighter during a structure fire, he put into practice to achieve a job he loves and begin the path to the career of his dreams. As he perfectly sums it up, "The best experience I have had that prepares me for this job is being the son of my Dad."

THE BACKSTOPPERS HELPS THE CHILDREN OF FALLEN HEROES, LIKE DENZEL, ACHIEVE THEIR DREAMS BY PROVIDING ASSISTANCE FOR TUITION AND MORE. SPEAKING ABOUT HOW WE HELP, DENZEL SAID, "I WISH PEOPLE KNEW HOW HELPFUL BACKSTOPPERS IS TO GRIEVING FAMILIES WHEN A FAMILY LOSES A FIRST RESPONDER. THE ASSISTANCE PROVIDED BY BACKSTOPPERS IS INVALUABLE."

HE IS GONE, BUT NEVER FORGOTTEN



When retired Sgt. Tom and Fran Smith lost their only son, they lost a piece of themselves. On December 5th, 1997, St. Louis County Police Officer Tom Smith, Jr. was assisting the victim of an earlier accident when a van struck and killed them both. "On that dreadful night 19 years ago, a piece of our heart was ripped from us," Tom, Sr. says, "and we will never get him back." To remember the amazing

person their son was, Tom and Fran work tirelessly on multiple events that benefit The BackStoppers and Special Olympics of Missouri. They wear necklaces displaying Tom, Jr.'s photo, attend National Police Week, and support other families of fallen heroes. "It is our way to let everyone know Tom will never be forgotten."

In 1998, the Eastern Missouri Soccer Referees Association asked to hold a fundraiser in Tom's memory for children with special needs. Like his father, Tom played, coached, and officiated soccer. "Tommy played soccer all through grade school and high school," Tom, Sr. remembers. Because Tom and his father refereed soccer and played golf together when they could, the proposed golf event was a fitting memorial, and the Annual Police Officer Tom Smith, Jr. Memorial Golf Outing was born. Tom adds, "The thought was law enforcement helping kids and families. Tommy's love for the game of soccer was the seed! He believed in all that BackStoppers stands for and loved working with the children from Special Olympics."



The tournament rotated with trivia nights and mouse races, varying every few years to include the non-golfers eager to take part. "It became an annual event that friends of soccer and special needs youth were always looking forward to get together for a common cause in memory of Tommy," Tom says of the event's beginnings.

"In the early going, the soccer referees and their families were the volunteers and people that made it all happen," Tom, Sr. reflects. "As time went on, the challenge of getting funding increased." Now, Tom, who says his handicap is being on the course, and Fran organize the annual Golf Outing with a committee of 12 dedicated volunteers who work year-round. "The next year's planning started at the end of the 2016 event. Each committee member brings their professional expertise to the group. Each year is a new learning experience and we are continually making things better." The group's commitment to Tom's memory, The BackStoppers, and Special Olympics of Missouri is what drives the hard-working group to put together and even improve the tournament each year.

It's this same commitment Tom and Fran exhibit in their daily tribute to their son's memory; their photo necklaces. "The picture necklaces that we wear of Tom Jr. are so much more to us than just a picture on a necklace. It is our way of honoring Tom, Jr.'s memory and keeping him close to our hearts at all times. Wearing the necklace is a reminder that he is always in our hearts and watching over us. It also shows anyone we meet what our son and our fallen hero looks like. He is gone but *never* forgotten," Fran explains.

Tom and Fran Smith also make the annual pilgrimage to National Police Week where between 25,000 and 40,000 people descend on Washington, D.C. to participate in the National Peace Officers' Memorial Service honoring fallen heroes. "The support we

received from everyone our first year attending was amazing. Now we work very hard to support the new families," Fran says of their dedication to other surviving families. "Listening to the bag pipers, seeing the Candle Light Vigil and the Memorial itself is so beautiful. But going to what is called the Wall is beyond words. The peace and tranquility at the wall is fantastic. Going to National Police Week is something we will always do. We have met and shared many tears with other parents and law enforcement officers."

Tom's memory is not only kept alive every day through his parents' hard work organizing the Memorial Golf Outing every July, beautiful picture necklaces, and support for new families of fallen first responders. Tom, Sr. also took up Civil War re-enactment in 1998, something Tom, Jr. had already been doing. "I just followed in his footsteps," Tom says, a perfect tribute to a son who followed in his father's when he joined the Police Explorers and the Soccer Referees Association in his teens.

"Tom, Jr. gave the ultimate sacrifice for all of us by trying to keep us all safe. He was doing his job, a job he had so much passion for," Fran shares. "I wish all people knew just how much BackStoppers is needed by the families of our fallen heroes; that their love and support doesn't end after the funeral, it continues on forever." Just like Tom, Jr.'s memory.

THE ANNUAL POLICE OFFICER TOM SMITH, JR. MEMORIAL GOLF OUTING IS SET FOR JULY 15, 2017 AT INCLINE VILLAGE GOLF COURSE. TOMSMITHJRMEMORIAL.COM



IT IS DIFFICULT, BUT IT CAN BE DONE



Whitney Neal, daughter of St. Louis County Police Detective Willie Neal, Jr., EOW 1/29/97, is nearing the homestretch of a Pathologists' Assistant program, a program that accepts only 10 people every year. "The small class size creates a close-knit group, which is something I love and appreciate," Whitney tells us. "Getting into the program is quite competitive, and there are only approximately 12 Pathologists' Assistant programs in the nation."

Whitney entered the fast-paced program in July of 2015 after completing her undergraduate degree in Clinical Laboratory Science. Once she graduates in May of 2017 and passes the certification exam, she will be a board-certified Pathologists' Assistant. "The first question I get is 'what's that?'," Whitney says, adding that Pathologists' Assistants are "physician extenders" who examine surgical specimens and perform different types of autopsies.

The field is the perfect fit for Whitney, whose interest in pathology comes from seeing various diseases affect her friends and family. "I wanted to better understand the mechanisms of these diseases and, in doing so, help others by doing my part as a Pathologists' Assistant," she says of her choice to study pathology. "I love that pathology is very hands on. You get to see and touch masses, lesions, nodules and other pathological conditions. In doing so, we help diagnose patients, which in turn helps determine their prognosis. Furthermore, you get to perform autopsies which, I know, seems weird to most people, but there is a certain satisfaction that comes from helping loved ones understand why or how their family member or friend passed away."

Whitney shared a meaningful experience with us from her schooling that she carries with her today. "While getting my undergraduate degree, I had a professor who told us on the first day of class, 'Medicine is hard'. He later explained the simplified phrase by telling us that regardless of what medical profession we go into, the study of medical science and medicine in general is difficult. Therefore, it is our duty as students not to be surprised or discouraged by the difficulty, but to accept it, and rise to the occasion. The same concept applies to Pathologists' Assistant school; it is difficult, but it can be done, and having a true interest in what you are learning makes it that much more fun."

After graduating, Whitney plans to get a job at a teaching hospital. Her goal is to be an Assistant Director of a Pathologists' Assistant program, while still practicing as a Pathologists' Assistant. Whitney anticipates growth and improvements in the field as she works toward her goal. "I believe that as we continue to learn more about different diseases and find treatments, the way we handle specimens will change. I think a lot of pathology is moving towards molecular testing, which will hopefully lead to more patient-specific treatment plans."

As the final months of the challenging Pathologists' Assistant program draw near, Whitney reflects on the assistance her family received from The BackStoppers. "The BackStoppers is a wonderful organization. They make dreams attainable and alleviate stress and worry. I would not be where I am without all the support from this amazing organization." She adds, "I would like to thank The BackStoppers for all they have done for my family and me. I hope to one day give back and help others as I have been helped. The BackStoppers has helped make that dream possible."

THE BACKSTOPPERS EDUCATION FUND ENSURES THAT CHILDREN OF FALLEN FIRST RESPONDERS WILL HAVE ACCESS TO FINANCIAL RESOURCES TO PURSUE ELEMENTARY, SECONDARY, OR POST-SECONDARY EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES. WE HAVE MADE A COMMITMENT ON BEHALF OF THE ENTIRE COMMUNITY TO PROVIDE FOR THE FUTURE SECURITY AND EDUCATION OF THE FAMILIES WE SERVE.

