



# The Informer

Volume 4, Issue 10

July 4th, our Nation's 229th Birthday!

July 2005

## Special Points

- **NEXT MEETING**  
**MONDAY July 11th**  
at **7:00 p.m.**



- **Congressman Tom Visit**
- Golf Tournament
- Last meeting highlights
- Lodge Officers
- New Benefits
- Merchandise Pictorial
- Hero Spotlight
- Murphy's Law
- State Legislation
- Historical Quotes
- Editorial

Welcome aboard To our new members!

Members are encouraged to use the forum through the State website [www.scfop.org](http://www.scfop.org). It can only be accessed by FOP members and is an excellent resource to network securely with officers around the state.

## Congressman Tom Tancredo to visit lodge



On August 2nd, 2005 Congressman Tom Tancredo (R.) Colorado, will be an honored guest of our lodge. He is a friend of law enforcement and was an early co-sponsor of HR218. Tom has been the greatest national advocate of immigration reform, particularly since 9-11. His common sense approach on this politically sensitive issue has made him a magnet for those who believe our national security begins at our borders. The following is an excerpt from his website <http://tancredo.house.gov/>

Tom Tancredo, a lifelong Coloradan and native of Denver, represents Colorado's 6th Congressional district. The Littleton-based district stretches across Douglas County, much of Jefferson County, Evergreen in the mountains, and portions of Park County in the west. To the east, the district encompasses parts of Arapahoe County and Elbert County.

Tom is a school teacher by trade; and taught for several years at Drake Junior High before serving in the Colorado Legislature and in the Department of Education for former presidents Reagan and Bush. He also headed up the Independence Institute, a libertarian think tank based in Golden, prior to being elected to Congress in 1998.

He is a member of both the House International Relations and Resources Committees. He is also the chairman of the 82-member bipartisan House Immigration Reform Caucus.

This may be the first time that a legislator from a different state has been sought to speak before a body of policeman. Tom will be speaking on the topic of "illegal immigration" and its impact on law enforcement and National security. All lowcountry brethren of badge are invited. Select invitations will be sent to area judges, magistrates and solicitors. This will be history in the making. The event will start at 7:00 p.m.

## *Second Annual Distressed Officer Fund Golf Tournament*

Our Chaplain David Lee is heading up our second annual golf tournament to raise money for our "distressed officer fund." He and his committee have secured greatly discounted rates of play for the Harbor Course at the Nationally acclaimed *Wild Dunes*. They have also acquired some wonderful prizes through some generous sponsors. Included with this newsletter is an entry form for players and/or sponsors. Please distribute freely. They can also be downloaded from the website.

All monies raised from this event will go to our "distressed officer fund" that is unique to our lodge. This fund provides relief to officers injured in the line of duty (throughout our state) and their families in the event of the ultimate sacrifice. Volunteers to assist in this event are still welcomed. Contact David Lee if you can spare some time for this most worthy event.



The food committee delivered a fine meal once again. Tacos, burritos and fajitas were served up with peppers, salsas and the fixins. Great job!

15 names read for new active membership. 1 associate.

Building committee reports that lodge sign should be completed prior to next meeting. Still working on roof leak.

V. Pres. Blackmon reports that our lodge website had 18,177 "hits" the previous month. Solicits photos for the local and state websites.

Training Committee - Buddy Isgett gives overview of training the lodge is attempting to bring in for members. Last month to sign up for *Street Survival*.

Golf Fundraiser Committee - David Lee on the second annual *Distressed Officer Golf Tournament*. Have acquired great prizes, need more players.

Members report on Washington, D.C. trip to National Memorial.

Tom Botchie reports on *Healing Fields* slain veteran memorial. 1,872 American flags placed in honor.

Brother Joe Bill reports on our team involvement in the SCDC *Special Olympics Golf Tournament*.

Tom Botchie reports on our booth at the Ladson gunshow. T-shirts were hot sellers and generated \$500 for the *Distressed Officer Fund*.

Legal defense committee reports Summerville P.D. onboard with payroll deduction.

Merchandise committee reports new items on order.

Vote on Congressman Tancredo invitation - unanimous, no dissensions.

Brother Jim Ward (Chas. Co. ret.) suffered heart attack and recovering well, Shelby Reasons (Mt. Pleasant P.D.) at home going through rehabilitation (from motorcycle wreck) Dean Powell (Charleston City P. D. ret.) home in hospice care.

*Please keep these officers and their families in your prayers.*

## ***New Grand Lodge Benefits - Dan Isgett***

The Grandlodge FOP offers many benefits to our members. Members can go to [www.grandlodgefop.org](http://www.grandlodgefop.org) and click on the service providers to find information on many of the benefits granted to FOP members.

I have personally tried one of the benefits myself. I investigated the benefits of refinancing my home through the Nationwide Advantage Mortgage Company. I called the number and spoke with the representative on the phone. He e-mailed me information that I used for comparison with other mortgage companies. After several days, I decided that this was the best option and used this company. I have so far been pleased with the results. If, you are looking to purchase a new home or refinance the home you have, this is an option you can use to compare deals. Do the research and determine for yourself if this is the best offer for you. Please let me know if you do use this benefit of your service or if you were able to locate a better offer. The information is provided below:

Nationwide Advantage Mortgage 866.816.5143  
[www.FOPAdvantage.com](http://www.FOPAdvantage.com) Nationwide Advantage Mortgage CompanySM guarantees FOP members the best mortgage deal or pays you \$300.\* Our mortgage process is faster and easier than ever before: Apply and receive an approval decision in as little as 10 minutes. Apply only one time -- no pre-approval required. Pay no origination fee or underwriting fee. Get approved even if you haven't found a home. Apply for your next loan today! Call 1-866-816-5143 or go to [www.FOPAdvantage.com](http://www.FOPAdvantage.com).

Also, another new benefit to our members is a 15% discount at 1-800-flowers. As a special benefit for the FOP, members enjoy a 15% discount! To place an order and receive your discount, simply shop our secure web site [www.1800FLOWERS.COM](http://www.1800FLOWERS.COM) and enter code "GRANDFOP" under special offers during checkout or call 1-800-FLOWERS® (1-800-356-9377) and mention promotion code "GRANDFOP".

## ***Know Your Lodge Officers***



**R.E. (Reggie) Sharpe**  
**Secretary**

Reggie has been a member of lodge 3 since 1997 and has served as secretary since 2000.

Currently, Reggie serves as editor of this newsletter *The Informer* as well as the State FOP newsletter *Behind The Badge*. He writes as a hobby and his efforts have been featured in the *Post & Courier* newspaper, *The Badge Sheriff's* newsletter, SCHP newsletter, *APB (American Police Beat)* Magazine, *Law Enforcement News* John Jay Criminal Justice College - New York and *The Big Show* syndicated radio.

He is a twelve year veteran of law enforcement - beginning his career as a reserve deputy of the Berkeley County Sheriff's office, then serving two years with the Charleston County Sheriff's office in the capacity of detention officer and T.A.C.T., later in uniformed patrol for 18 months and to date in special operations as warrant investigator. He has served in collateral duties as a member of the Honor Guard, Search/Rescue, S.W.A.T. and "most wanted" television spokesman.

His goals have been realized through his lodge involvement, when he saw it (this lodge) grow from dormancy to the largest and most active in the state. His proudest accomplishment has been having a hand in the creation of *The Distressed Officer Fund*, where officers and their families are assisted around the state when they are critically injured or killed.

# By popular demand - New Merchandise

The following are new items that will be available for sale at the lodge. You asked and we listened. Below are some graphic representations of the items.



Special thanks to our merchandise committee for their work on these items. As always, these items will be sold at cost only.



## Lowcountry Hero Spotlight

**Vaughn Edward Kee** Mt. Pleasant Police Dept.

End of Watch: Tuesday December 3rd, 1985

Officer Kee was killed after being struck by a drunk driver. He had stopped another drunk driver in the early morning hours and while outside of his cruiser the second drunk driver approached from the rear and struck him. He was transported to a local hospital where he succumbed to his injuries approximately four hours later.

Vaughn Edward Kee's photograph is currently unavailable. If you can provide a photograph, please send a scanned image by [ EMAIL ] to the webmaster or mail a copy of the photograph to the lodge's P.O. Box.

*May his sacrifice not be forgotten!*

### Murphy's Laws of Police Work

1. Bullet Proof vests aren't.
2. The bigger they are, the harder they fall. They also punch, kick and choke harder too.
3. The speed at which you respond to a fight call is inversely proportional to how long you've been a cop.
4. Pepperspray works on cops too, and regardless of wind direction, will always blow back in your face.
5. High speed chases will always proceed from an area of light traffic to an area of extremely heavy traffic.
6. If you know someone who tortures animals and wets the bed, he is either a serial killer or he works for Internal Affairs.
7. Placing a gun back in a shoulder holster with your finger on the trigger will cause you to walk with a limp.
8. Flash hidens don't really.
9. If you have cleared all the rooms and met no resistance, you and your entry team have probably kicked in the door of the wrong house.
10. If a cop swings a baton in a fight, he will hit other cops more often than he will hit the bad guys he swings at.
11. Domestic arguments will always migrate from an area of few available weapons (living room), to an area with many available weapons (kitchen).
12. If you have just punched out a handcuffed prisoner for spitting at you, you are about to become a star on Eyewitness News .
13. Bullets work on veteran cops too. They also work on weight lifters, martial arts experts, department marksmen, Vice cops, S.W.A.T. jocks, and others who consider themselves immortal.
14. When a civilian sees a blue light approaching at a high rate of speed, he will always pull into the lane the cop needs to use.
15. If you drive your patrol car to the geometric center of the Gobi Desert, within five minutes a dumb-ass civilian will pull along side you and ask for directions.
16. You can never drive slow enough to please the citizens who don't need a cop, and you can never drive fast enough to please the ones who do.
17. Any suspect with a rifle is a better shot than any cop with a pistol.
18. From behind you, the bad guys can see your night sights as well as you can.
19. On any call, there will always be more bad guys than there are good guys, and the farther away your back-up, the more there will be.
20. The longer you've been a cop, the shorter your flashlight and your temper gets.
21. Whatever you are about to do, if there is a good chance it will get you killed, you probably shouldn't do it.

*\*from the internet - author unknown\**

### State Legislation



There was a change to the SCPORS (South Carolina Police Officer Retirement System ) that was approved at the last of this legislative session.

This bill did not effect the SCPORS until it was changed in committee just prior to approval. Basically, it states that retirees who come back to work in Law Enforcement must pay into the retirement system.

This is the portion that effects retired officers: S618 " BY AMENDING SECTIONS 9-11-90 AND 9-11-120, BOTH AS AMENDED, RELATING TO THE RETURN OF RETIREES OF THE SOUTH CAROLINA POLICE OFFICER RETIREMENT SYSTEM (SCPORS) TO COVERED EMPLOYMENT AND THE PRERETIREMENT DEATH BENEFIT FOR SCPORS, SO AS TO REQUIRE SCPORS RETIREES IN COVERED EMPLOYMENT TO MAKE EMPLOYEE CONTRIBUTIONS AND PROVIDE FOR DEATH BENEFIT COVERAGE FOR A RETIRED SCPORS CONTRIBUTING MEMBER;.."

From the SCFOP Executive Director -Mike Loftis: "A class action law suit regarding the requirement to have those who have retired and returned to work to resume paying into the retirement system has been filed by Columbia attorney Cam Lewis." In the suit the plaintiffs are also requesting that the court issue an injunction prohibiting the state from implementing the provisions of S 618. We will follow this closely and keep everyone informed as it moves through the legal process.

The Informer

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**We are on the web!**  
**[www.scfop3.org](http://www.scfop3.org)**

Tri - County Lodge # 3

"Serving The Lawmen of the Lowcountry"

### Interesting Quotes

"I promise you a police car on every sidewalk. -  
Marion Barry - Mayor Washington, D.C.

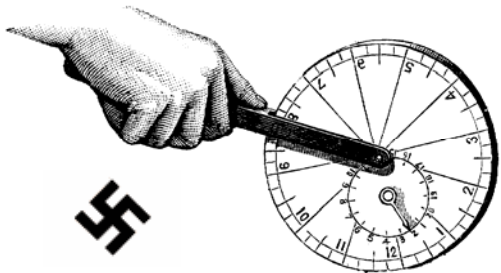
"The idea that the police cannot ask questions of the person that knows most about the crime is an infamous decision." - Edwin Meese III



The Tri-County Lodge (founded in 1976) is chartered to serve those law enforcement officers working in Charleston, Dorchester and Colleton Counties. Currently we have 536 active members and we are steadily growing. Our mission - both local as well as national, is to better our profession through fraternalism and legally by way of legislation. We work from the bottom to the top and value the ideas and opinions of all our members.

The "Informer" is an evolving lodge endeavor. Any comments, criticisms, ideas for improvement or member submissions are welcomed. **\*\*Disclaimer\*\*** This publication does not necessarily represent the views of any or all of our members or affiliated lodges. Editorial comment solely that of the editor.

### Shocking



"Just doing my job." Ever heard that phrase? "Just following orders." Ever uttered that phrase? Between 1945 and 1949, both phrases were spoken often (in German) as a defense during the Nuremberg War Trials. In 1961, a psychologist at Yale University named Stanley Milgram devised an experiment to test "obedience" in an attempt to explain the Nazi phenomenon.

Milgram solicited a wide cross section of volunteers to participate in an "experiment in learning." Two volunteers (one was a plant or actor who was "in" on the experiment, the other was an unsuspecting volunteer) were paired together. The actual volunteer was given the role of "teacher" and the actor given the role of "student." Both were taken to a room and shown what appeared to be an "electric chair" of sorts that had straps and wires. It was explained that through an intercom from the adjoining room, the teacher would ask questions and the student would answer while he was strapped in the chair. If the student answered incorrectly, the teacher would press a button and deliver an electric shock to the

student. The teacher was given a "sample" shock of low voltage to convince him of the reality of it all. Once the student was strapped in, the teacher was taken to the room next door.

The teacher's room contained a large panel with various dials, electric gauges and buttons. One such dial was labeled with incremental voltage amounts, shaded to read "slight pain," "moderate pain," "severe pain" and so on to "lethal." The teacher would ask the questions through the intercom and press a button to administer the shock to the student when he gave a wrong answer. Each time, the dial was turned up a notch. The actor next door (never actually got shocked) would scream and wail as the voltage got higher, pleading to be released. Just how far would people go when they thought they were causing pain to others? The results were amazing. Well over 60% would crank the dial all the way, providing they were reassured from the lab staff that "everything was ok." A small percentage would quit in disgust, saying it was wrong to hurt others. The experiment results were later published as *Obedience to Authority: An Experimental View* (1974).

Overall, Milgram concluded that otherwise normal, moral people, could commit horrible acts as long as they felt "someone else" was ultimately responsible or they were acting under higher authority. I was appalled at the recent Supreme Court decision, *Kelo v. City of New London*. In spite of this ruling from a "higher authority" making it "ok" for the government to seize private property and resell it to private enterprise - committed under the auspices of eminent domain, I had to ask myself "as a policeman, would I deploy any police action to enforce this new law?" I submit I would not. It flies in the face of all that is American. It is wrong. I may be among the slim minority, but I would quit in disgust. How far would you turn the dial? *Seig Heil Supreme Court!* - I think not.

-R.E. Sharpe