

CAPTAIN STEVE CAIN

YEARS OF SERVICE | 1970-1999

This month, we take a moment to look back and honor Captain Steve Cain's service to the Norman Police Department.

STEVE CAIN'S TENURE WITH NPD

Steve Cain's 29-year career with the Norman Police Department began in 1970 as a cadet in the 6th Police Academy. His cousin, a Tecumseh police officer, encouraged him to apply to Norman, but Steve had plans of eventually moving on to the FBI.

Steve became a Sergeant in April 1974 while also attending the University of Oklahoma, where he received his Bachelors in Business Administration in 1976. Steve met his wife, Debbie, and started their family during those years. Debbie said, "Steve realized, at that time, he truly enjoyed being right where he was." Steve was a part of the Youth Bureau and was passionate about working with youth in the community. He took Petey the Puppet to teach children about bike safety, and participated in the Cancer Research Bika-A-Thon, the Citizens Advisory Board's Secret Santa, and Special Olympics, to name a few.

Steve's focus as a supervisor, was on officer health and well-being, and he was a passionate advocate for officers during and after his career. The integrity of the department, including the uniform, was paramount. In 1984, Steve was promoted to Lieutenant and was assigned to the Special Operations unit. In 1985 that unit was responsible for a sting operation known as "SPOC VENDING" (COPS spelled backward), which recovered \$55,000 in 40 residential burglaries and resulted in 13 arrests. This is equivalent to \$55,000,000 in today's dollars.

In 1990, Steve was promoted to Captain. He served as the commander of Patrol Bureau, Support Services Bureau, District 21 District Attorney's Drug Task Force, and Investigations Bureau, where he retired in 1999. During his tenure at the police department, he served in every division.

STEVE CAIN'S LONGSTANDING CONTRIBUTIONS

Captain Cain's most noteworthy innovations for the police department involved building relationships with the community.

He advanced the Youth Bureau, established Crime Stoppers in Norman, led multifaceted special investigation operations that were responsible for shutting down local drug distribution and trafficking, and was passionately involved with the Fraternal Order of Police, locally, state and on a national level.

Captain Cain attended and assisted at the first National Police Officer's Memorial Service in Washington DC, and continued to support fundraising efforts for the national memorial for many years.

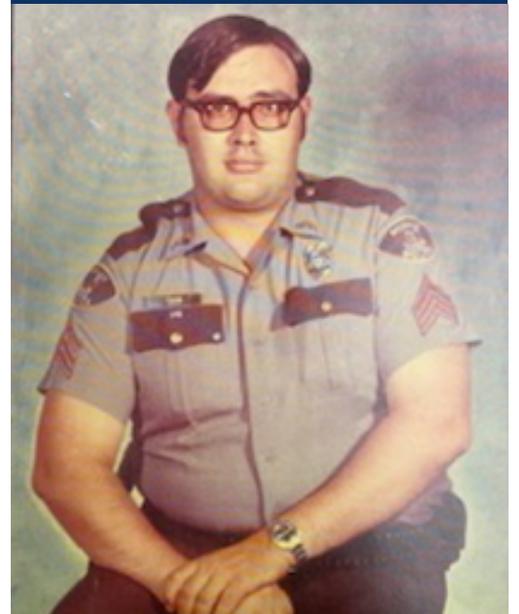
CAPTAIN CAIN WAS A GIANT OF A MAN WITH A GIANT HEART!

-RICKY JACKSON
DEPUTY CHIEF



"I REMEMBER CAPTAIN CAIN AS ONE OF THE BRIGHTEST AND MOST PROFESSIONAL OFFICERS I HAVE EVER HAD THE PRIVILEGE TO WORK WITH."

- DAVID BOYETT
RETIRED NORMAN POLICE CHIEF



CAPTAIN CAIN'S CONTINUED IMPACT

Steve Cain's passionate long-time involvement with the Fraternal Order of Police greatly impacted our officers. He served as Local Lodge Vice President, State Lodge Treasurer and President, and National Lodge Trustee for Oklahoma. He represented numerous lodges in labor contract negotiations, mediation, and arbitration. Steve presented testimony before the City Council, State Legislative Committees, and Congressional Committees on various issues of importance. He also lobbied at Local, State, and National Levels on multiple topics that impact Law Enforcement.

Captain Cain was an Oklahoma State Crime Stopper Association member, having served two terms as Vice President and two terms as President of the statewide organization. He was also a member of the Oklahoma Police Pension and Retirement Board since 1994, having served one term as Vice Chairman and two terms as Chairman of the Board. He spent time at the state Capital fighting to protect the police pension system from officials who wanted to raid the balance and use it to prop up other state funds. Steve was a member of the Council of Law Enforcement Education and Training (CLEET) since 1996 and was Vice Chairman of the Council for one term. He also was a member of the Oklahoma Sheriffs and Peace Officers Association, Oklahoma Association of Chiefs of Police, International Association of Chiefs of Police, and A-ONE (Association of Oklahoma Narcotics Enforcers).



KEY INNOVATIONS POLICE ADVOCACY

- YOUTH
- COMMUNITY POLICING
- CRIME STOPPERS
- INVESTIGATIONS
- VICTIMS
- OFFICERS
- FAMILY
- PROFESSION

WORDS FROM THOSE WHO WORKED ALONGSIDE STEVE

RETIRED NORMAN POLICE CHIEF | DAVID BOYETT

I remember Captain Cain as one of the brightest and most professional officers I have ever had the privilege to work with. He had a special ability to study past incidents of crime and correctly identify patterns and modus operandi resulting in arrests, convictions and property recovered based on his analysis and mapping of high crime areas.

As a leader he was a rising star at NPD and within the ranks of the local, state and national F.O.P. His dedication extended into the field of investigations where he was in charge of a highly effective special operations unit and represented the department with many state and federal law enforcement agencies and task forces. He excelled as a modern-day crime fighter leading complex investigations, managing informants and contributed to making Norman one of the safest and best communities in the US.

Captain Cain may be gone but my memories of him remain fresh on my mind. This recognition as an NPD Innovator will let others, for generations to come, know just how important Captain Cain was to the department, community and his family.



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RETIRED NORMAN POLICE CHIEF | PHIL COTTEN

Steve was a big man with a deep voice that everyone knew was him when he spoke on the radio. He also had a big heart and a gentle spirit. His wife, Debbie, and two daughters meant everything to him. Steve really was the leader in Norman establishing the Crime Stoppers Program. He believed strongly in the program and the potential benefits to the city. He researched it and visited other programs, particularly Lawton, to gain a thorough knowledge of the Crime Stoppers Program and establish it in Norman. Steve also was President of the NPD FOP as well as the State FOP.



RETIRED NORMAN POLICE DETECTIVE | TOM BRAMLETT

I fondly recall our fishing trips down at my family's cabin on Broken Bow lake. A group of us would have fishing tournaments there, and those were good times. But, I also recall a time where I made Steve extremely mad and got a good yelling. I recall getting into an argument with one of the attorneys at the Cleveland County DA's Office, and when I returned to the office Cain was extremely angry with me. I'd never seen him that angry before nor that angry after! Our office was located on the far southwest corner of the police department but you could hear him getting onto me all the way to the Chief's office which was the far northeast corner of the pd!

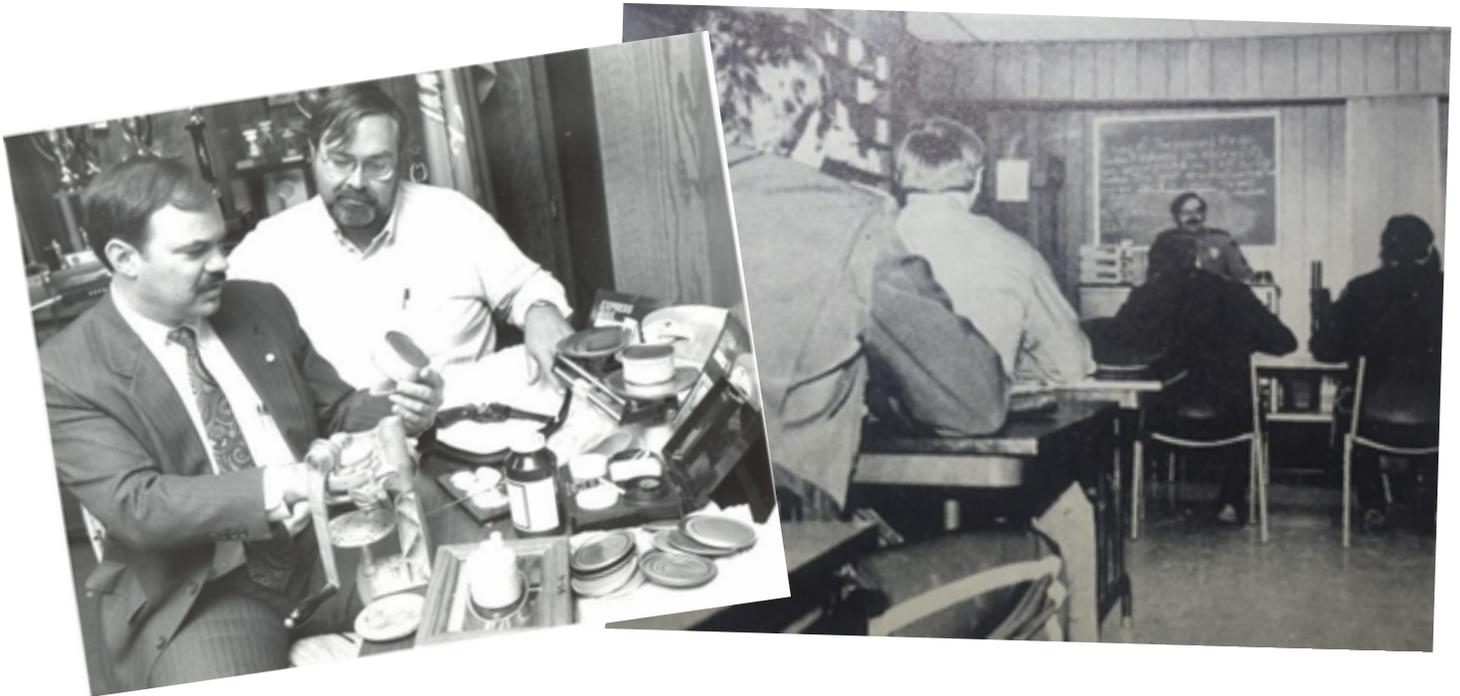
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NPD DEPUTY CHIEF | RICKY JACKSON

Captain Cain was a giant of a man with a giant heart. He was a leader, teacher and mentor. He was approachable and always available to impart a word of wisdom or advice to a young detective. I recall transferring to the Criminal Investigations Division back in 1991. Cain was the Division Commander. Back then we had a temporary assignment program where a patrol officer could temporarily transfer to CID for six months before rotating back to patrol. When my six months stint was up, Cain kept extending my tour, explaining that I was in the middle of an important investigation and couldn't be spared, until a permanent slot opened. By that time I had been in CID 14 months, eight months passed my return date to patrol. I believe I was the longest permanent / temporary assigned detective in CID history. Cain was responsible for me switching from the city's pension system to the police pension plan. He advised, "one day you will appreciate buying your time back, making the move, and having the opportunity to retire much sooner than later..." A few years later, Cain notified me that the IRS had opened a window of opportunity to buy back my time, so I did. He of course was right, and I'm eternally grateful for the advice and guidance he provided to me. Cain loved to cook and every Christmas he would invite the division over for a Christmas Holiday party. He provided everyone with delicious baked goods before leaving. So in addition to being a great boss he was also a great cook! Cain loved to fish and I will never forget the fishing trips we all went on, nor the way his eyes would light up when he talked about his family. He adored his wife and daughters!



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RETIRED NPD OFFICER | PAUL SWENSON

Steve was always concerned with the welfare of his co-workers at NPD, and also with the police profession at large--from small departments to large; municipal, county, state & federal. He was committed to protect and enhance the safety, pay and benefits of law enforcement officers. He served as an officer of Bratcher-Miner lodge of the Fraternal Order of Police, including lodge president until he was promoted to captain (which at that time was not a part of the bargaining unit). He was instrumental in bargaining contracts with the city. He was good with numbers, so we could look at the city's books and tell if there was money available for raises. He was also active in the State Fraternal Order of Police lodge, serving as treasurer, vice-president, and president. He also lobbied at the state legislature for the previously-mentioned protections. And, he served as Oklahoma's Trustee to the National FOP, so was active in lobbying at the federal level, too.

Steve was one of those unique individuals who could look at an issue/problem, and see it from multiple sides. Also, he was able to multi-task with the best. When he was confronted with issues, he was able to comprehend, digest and deal with them in an efficient manner. He was able to lead and supervise his subordinates without fearing the protections that he sought for them.

He was a good friend, and his daughters and wife are 3 of the best and brightest women I know!

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