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THE FRONT LINE

A Southern States PBA Newsletter

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Miss. scholarship recipient admires LEO father as her hero 'fighting the bad guys'

BY KATHARINE JEFCOATS
EDITOR

When Megan Campbell was a child, she thought it was cool to have a dad who spent his days "fighting the bad guys," as a police officer in their hometown of Clinton, Miss.

As she grew, she still admired him as a hero but became aware of how dangerous his job was.

"Being the child of a police officer was just my life growing up," she said. "It was normal to me and when I thought about it, the thought of my dad 'fighting the bad guys' sounded very cool and heroic.

"Those thoughts still exist today but also some of concern sometimes as our world can be very dangerous at times,"



Megan Campbell and father, Lt. Matt Campbell

continued Campbell. “I still, even in those times of worry, feel honored to have a parent that would, at times, put his life on the line to help protect and serve the community.”

Campbell is a recipient of one of the 2022 Police Benevolent Foundation’s annual college scholarships, awarded because her father is a law enforcement officer and member of the Police Benevolent Association’s Mississippi Division.

Campbell is enrolled in Mississippi State University as an education major, with plans to become an elementary school teacher.

Her father, Clinton police Lt. Matt Campbell, is proud of her accomplishments.

“Megan is very dedicated to the career of education she has chosen to pursue through college,” he said. “Megan is hardworking and driven. She works so well with children, while working for a local church’s after-school care program. Megan’s heart is in education and bringing a love of learning to the next generation.

“Music is also a huge part of her life as she participated in band throughout middle school and high school, and continues as a member of the Famous Maroon Band at Mississippi State University,” continued Lt. Campbell. “Megan has held several leadership positions throughout high school and is a great leader to her peers. I am so proud of her and I’m excited to see all she accomplishes in the future.”

Megan Campbell said she is thrilled to be recognized for her efforts through the awarding of the scholarship.

“Receiving the PBF scholarship was truly an honor,” she said. “This scholarship is a blessing for me, helping me pay for my college education. It is a great honor to be recognized for my educational and extracurricular endeavors by such a great association.”

Lt. Campbell dipped his toe into the sometimes-troubled waters of law enforcement while also



Megan Campbell

working full-time in the private sector.

“A friend of mine asked me one day if I had ever considered being a LEO, and I told him that I hadn’t really given it much thought,” he said. “After tossing the idea around, about a month later I decided to become a reserve officer to get a feel for things. When I was laid off from my full-time employer a few years later, I transitioned to a full-time officer.”

He started out as a reserve officer, serving from August 1999 to December 2010. He completed basic mandate training in early 2011 and joined the Clinton Police Department in April 2011 as a full-time officer.

Since that time, he achieved success through the ranks.

"I started off really enjoying just being able to help people solve problems," said Lt. Campbell. "Several years into my full-time position, I became a field training officer, which I really enjoyed. More recently, a former captain pushed me into considering getting certified to teach ALERRT (Advanced Law Enforcement Rapid Response Training). I am now certified to teach five ALERRT curriculums."

As his daughter looks forward to a future of helping mold young minds into their own successes, Lt. Campbell said he reflects back on his career content in the fact he's done his best to help his community.

"There are so many memorable events I can think of, but really just knowing and having the satisfaction that I've helped so many people throughout the years is truly the most memorable part for me," he said. "It feels so great knowing that I can be a part of helping to protect and serve my community."



Megan Campbell at graduation



Megan Campbell on her flute



Megan Campbell directs her school marching band



PTSD – Warner Robins, Ga – April 11

The Police Benevolent Foundation, Southern States PBA and PBA of Georgia have partnered with LEAPS Training LLC and the Middle Georgia Chapter of the PBA of Georgia to educate law enforcement administrators, law enforcement officers and their family members about the hidden dangers of PTSD and its connection to the high rate of law enforcement suicide.

On Tuesday, April 11, the Foundation is conducting an informational seminar about PTSD and law enforcement suicide. This event will be held at the Central Georgia Technical College in Warner Robins. This seminar is absolutely free, and it is extremely valuable in its potential for saving lives, careers and most importantly - saving families. We encourage everyone with an interest in securing and/or improving the profession of law enforcement to attend. Six hours of P.O.S.T. credit will be offered.

The Facts:

- More officers die each year by their own hands than are killed in the line of duty.
- Law enforcement suicide is seldom addressed or acknowledged by law enforcement agencies.
- Each day an officer makes the choice to take his/her own life.
- The effects of law enforcement suicides are long lasting to both the officer's family and the department.
- Of the nation's approximately 18,000 law enforcement agencies, only about 2% have policies or programs that address law enforcement PTSD or suicide prevention.

Visit PBFI.org to
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Tuesday, April 11, 2023
8:00am - 4:00pm

Register Today!



Central Georgia Technical College
80 Cohen Walker Drive
Warner Robins, GA 31088



Fayetteville cadet becomes 16,000th PBA member in N.C.

By ANGIE TULLIS
North Carolina Patrolman's Journal editor

Adam Orowetz finds law enforcement to be what he considers the next logical choice in his commitment to service.

Orowetz recalled having had a wonderful childhood growing up in a small town outside Pittsburgh, Pa., with his parents and brother. He said he learned responsibility, determination and a strong work ethic from his father, an engineer by trade and commercial real estate agent by profession, and his mother, a registered nurse.

Service is a familial trait within the Orowetz family, as his brother works in fire safety.

Orowetz enjoyed playing basketball and football at Penn Hills High School, but even then, he said he looked toward a career in which he could be of service to others.

Shortly after graduation, he began a five-year career in the U.S. Army.

While stationed at Fort Bragg, his military occupational specialty was 31B, military police. He said his childhood dream was to become a police officer, and his time serving as an MP further encouraged him to reach his goal.

In August 2022, Orowetz began his Basic Law Enforcement Training with Fayetteville Police Department, and soon signed up to join PBA. His membership made him the 16,000th law enforcement personnel to join in North Carolina.

Orowetz said he joined "for the protection of myself and my family."

Orowetz said he understands that the field he has entered does not begin and end with himself alone. Families often experience the impact of their loved ones' chosen career.

In addition to legislative representation, PBA provides legal services to all members and an accidental death benefit package. PBA offers



Cadet Orowetz and wife Morgan



Cadet Orowetz at the range

comfort and security to its members and their beneficiaries.

Orowetz and his wife, Morgan, have been married for two years, and they welcomed a baby during his first few weeks of training.

Morgan Orowetz is preparing to exit her service in the U.S. Army and plans to pursue a career in nursing. It's no wonder Orowetz said his wife is one of the greatest inspirations in his life.



Orowetz in the US Army

In his spare time, Orowetz enjoys spending time outdoors listening to music and playing sports with his family, friends and dog. He said he considers the greatest leaders in his life to be his father and the Lord.

Orowetz finds solid footing in his spiritual faith and believes that he, "can do all things through Christ who strengthens me."

For a man who said he considers his "coolest" characteristic to be his sense of humor, Orowetz has a realistic concept of who he is, where he's going and what he wants to achieve.

Next issue of the FRONTLINE
will focus on these states



If you have story ideas from these
member states, please email

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To read past issues
of the FRONT LINE,
please scan.



PBA Attorney Spotlight: Julie Knight of Covington, La.

BY JONI FLETCHER CAWTHON
DIRECTOR OF LEGAL SERVICES

When attorney Julie Knight of Covington, La., was approached by police officers about joining the PBA attorney panel in 2017, she was quick to say yes.

"I was honored to be asked," she said. "I believe the officers knew that I was willing to stand up for them when I had to."

Since 2017, Knight has handled at least a dozen cases for Louisiana PBA members. Those cases ranged from direct defense in a lawsuit to a criminal investigation to numerous disciplinary appeals and grievances.



Julie Knight

When PBA has called upon Knight to travel to assist members, she has happily agreed, and she has become a key member of the PBA legal team in Louisiana.

Knight was born in New Orleans and later moved to Covington for high school. She earned a degree in speech communication and psychology from LSU and then proceeded to LSU Law. After law school, Knight first went into private practice handling civil matters.

Later, she moved on to prosecuting and worked in the district attorney's office for just under 20 years, ultimately handling felony cases.

"That's how I got to know a lot of police officers," she said.

Knight went back to private practice in 2015 and

works on civil, family law and criminal defense cases. As she has represented PBA members in disciplinary and grievance matters, she has seen that it is often difficult for the officers to know and apply policy in their personal cases.

She said departments typically want to get statements from officers without the officers' attorneys being involved, which is contrary to Louisiana's law enforcement officers' Bill of Rights. On more than one occasion, she has had to speak up to assert the rights of the PBA members.

Law enforcement has been a family affair for Knight, as her husband recently retired from St. Tammany Parish Sheriff's Office. In addition, her father-in-law was a police officer in New Orleans.

The Knights have three children – a married daughter who lives in Houston with her family, a son who is a freshman in college and a 15-year-old son who plays high school soccer.

When it comes to advice that Knight has for police officers in regard to PBA, she said, "I want officers to know that problems can happen for any of them, and they need to be prepared by having the services of PBA on their side."



Blue Blood: Lauded Blakely continues family legacy of LEOs

By CINDY BAUGHER
ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES ASSISTANT

Tony Blakely is relatively new to law enforcement, yet he is already being awarded for the positive qualities he brings to the role.

Germantown Police Department named Blakely the Officer of the Month for October 2022.

Midnight shift commander Josh Schultz said Blakely deserves the recognition for many reasons.

“Officer Blakely is one of the most motivated officers we have on our shift,” he said. “He genuinely cares about the community and he maintains his professionalism at all times. His friendly demeanor makes him very approachable and he is known to go above and beyond what is expected of him.”

With over three years of police work under his belt, Blakely said he enjoys being in law enforcement because serving, protecting and impacting others in a positive way comes naturally to him.

His career began at the Sumner County Sheriff's Office in October 2019. After a move from Nashville to Memphis, in October 2021, the Germantown Police Department quickly became a home for him.

Blakely found it a great place to continue his career and strengthen his relationships with the community.

Growing up in Clarksville, Tenn., Blakely had two in-house examples of what a career dedicated to law enforcement looked like. His mother works as a victims services coordinator with the Tennessee Bureau of Investigation.

His father, Commander Tony Blakely Sr., is with Tennessee State University PD. The elder Blakely has been in the field for over 32 years and has policed in almost “every capacity.”

Blakely calls his father his greatest role model he's had since he stepped into this career. He said his dad “supervises with a standard of excellence.”



Germantown police Officer Tony Blakely

His father may have had a hand in encouraging Blakely's membership in the PBA. He joined after learning about the resources and outstanding benefits that are offered to the members of PBA.

As a student, Blakely played football and soccer, and was on the wrestling team. As a three-sport athlete, it's no wonder that these days he is almost as busy in his down time as he is while working.

When he's not policing, Blakely relaxes by spending quality time with family and friends. He enjoys playing soccer, listening to country music, hiking and visiting historical areas.

Blakely expressed his gratitude to his wife, Kat, for putting her law enforcement career as a state probation officer on hold as they started a family.

He points out that his wife's sacrifice allowed him to further pursue his career.

Earning a degree in professional studies -- organizational leadership, and with classes in Army leadership and criminal justice courses, Blakely graduated in 2019 from the University of Memphis ready to make a mark in law enforcement.

He earned his certification at the Tennessee Law Enforcement Training Academy.

He set lofty goals for himself, as evidenced by his favorite quote, from Gen. Colin Powell -- "If you are going to achieve excellence in big things, you develop the habit in little matters. Excellence is not an exception, it is a prevailing attitude."

For Blakely, the Officer of the Month recognition is proof he's demonstrating a prevailing attitude of excellence.



*We will
always remember
their sacrifice.*

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Behind The Badge

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'Strong advocate' honored to help Ark. PBA reach milestone

By KATHY JEFCOATS
EDITOR

One of the newest members of Arkansas PBA is proud to have helped the organization reach a milestone membership level of 2,500.

Eudora police Officer Charles Davis said he believes in PBA and demonstrates that support by spreading the good word about its benefits.

"Ever since joining PBA, I've been a strong advocate and supporter of it, and I'll talk to any officer willing to listen about joining PBA and the benefits that PBA offers," said Davis. "I feel very honored that my joining PBA has helped it reached a milestone for the state of Arkansas."

Davis grew up in Fordyce, Ark., graduating from the town's high school, where he played in the band and scribed in the writers' club.

He said he cultivated a passion for community service at an early age.

"I have always had the drive to serve the public so I joined the military as soon as I could," Davis said. "I spent eight years in the military. I've spent the past 13 years as an EMT and the past year as law enforcement."

It doesn't hurt that Davis works under leadership that shares his devotion to PBA.

"One of my biggest mentors is my chief, simply because he backs his officers 100 percent as long as they're in the right," said Davis. "He does not micromanage us. He trusts our judgment and he recognizes our strong points and our weak points. He supports us to further ourselves in our career." A big part of that support is encouraging membership in PBA.

"I got PBA because my chief actually told me about it," Davis said. He's a PBA member and he was involved in a situation where PBA came to his aid. I believe he's still here because of that."

Davis said PBA is the best protection a law



Eudora police Officer Charles Davis

enforcement officer can purchase.

"PBA is like insurance that you don't want but you really need," he said, "because you never know when you're gonna be put in a situation. You wanna be able to know that there is a team of people who are there for you, and that's very important, not just to me, but that should be important to all officers in this line of work. I strongly advocate for PBA. I believe in this organization."

However, just like insurance, Davis said he hopes he never has to use it.

"But I'm grateful it's there in case I do," he said.

Davis has had enough experience in public service to know the ups and downs of interfacing with strangers in volatile situations.

"The best part about being in law enforcement, I would say, is we get to interact with people sometimes when they're at their lowest in life," said Davis. "How we treat them can make a life-altering change for some people, and also change their opinions about how as a law-enforcement community we are viewed by the general public."

His hobbies and favorite pastimes include going to state parks.

"I love camping and hiking but I also love going to museums," Davis said. "I like the theater and I like to spend quality time with my children, my family and the woman I love."

Davis has two grown children, a son and a daughter.



Eudora police Officer Charles Davis said he became a PBA member to protect his family, which includes a son.



Davis said he enjoys spending time with 'the woman I love.'

Political Update - Alabama

The Mobile County Chapter discovered that the present district attorney, one district court judge and a longtime member of the Alabama Legislature were retiring.

The Mobile County Chapter held a screening and endorsed Chief Assistant District Attorney Keith Blackwood for district attorney, Assistant District Attorney Jennifer Wright for district court judge and Dr. Mark Shirey for the Alabama Legislature.

All three candidates won their elections and expressed their thanks for the PBA endorsement. Each of them said they will continue to support law enforcement.



District court judge-elect Jennifer Wright (l) with Mobile County Senior Vice President Andrea McDonald.



SCHOLARSHIPS

Applications for our 2023 scholarships are now being accepted. Visit our website to see our eligibility requirements and to download our application today.

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