



COMMON GROUND

FEBRUARY 2023 ISSUE



SCSD SALUTES

THE HONOR GUARD

SHERIFF'S MESSAGE

FEBRUARY 2023

Greetings,

In this edition of the Common Ground, we pay special attention to the men and women who serve in the Department's Honor Guard. The Suffolk County Sheriff's Department Honor Guard is a specially trained unit that proudly presents the colors of the United States of America and the Commonwealth of Massachusetts at national and state events. In-demand by various organizations and agencies to appear throughout Suffolk County and beyond to display the colors for community functions, parades and events, they are also frequently requested to assist at the funerals of dignitaries, members of law enforcement, and former Department employees, as well as memorial functions and observances.

Additional stories include our most recent Correction Officer Training Academy (COTA) class graduation, the swearing-in ceremony for my second full-term as Sheriff – which was performed by Chief Justice of the Supreme Judicial Court Kimberly Budd – and more.

I hope that you'll enjoy reading this issue, and I look forward to bringing you more insight and information about the form and functions of the Department in the issues to come.

-Sheriff Steven W. Tompkins



COMMON GROUND NEWSLETTER

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THE HONOR GUARD

Learn more about the Suffolk County Sheriff's Department's official ceremonial unit and the professional services they provide.

MEET THE SCSD HONOR GUARD'S WALLY VASILE AND KENNY SHEEHAN

SCSD Assistant Deputy Superintendent Wally Vasile and Deputy Kenny Sheehan talk about their time at the Department and their work on the Honor Guard.



WELCOME, CORRECTION OFFICER TRAINING ACADEMY CLASS 22-04

Read about the graduation of the Suffolk County Sheriff's Office's Correction Officer Training Academy Class 22-04.

SHERIFF TOMPKINS TAKES OATH OF OFFICE WITH ASSIST FROM CHIEF JUSTICE KIMBERLY BUDD

Read about Chief Justice of the Massachusetts Supreme Judicial Court Kimberly Budd delivering the oath of office to Sheriff Steven W. Tompkins.

SCSD SPOTLIGHT: THE SUFFOLK COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT HONOR GUARD

The Suffolk County Sheriff's Department Honor Guard is recognized as the Department's official ceremonial unit, which provides professional services for funerals, parades, various ceremonies, sporting contests, and official state and county functions.

The members of this cadre of specially-trained Department officers also perform routine duties, including the traditional officer functions of maintaining the care and custody of inmates and detainees remanded to the Department by the courts.

The Honor Guard is one of the most recognizable and visible units within the Department. Comprised of approximately 12 members, the Honor Guard represents the Suffolk County Sheriff's Department at many events throughout the community.



In 2022, the Suffolk County Sheriff's Department Honor Guard walked in numerous parades within the county, escorted charity rides, attended funerals for law enforcement agents and their families, and represented the department at Correctional Officer Training graduations.

The Suffolk County Sheriff's Department also worked alongside the Honor Guards of other law enforcement agencies, including Massachusetts State Police, Winthrop Police Department, Hampden County Sheriff's Department, Norfolk County Sheriff's Department, and Plymouth County Sheriff's Department, among others, to assist in their various undertakings.

As representatives of the Sheriff's Department, Honor Guard Members maintain the highest standard of behavior and decorum. Members, recommended by senior staff, are in compliance with attendance policies, and are discipline free.

Honor Guard Members at the Suffolk County Jail include Assistant Deputy Superintendent Walter Vasile, Lt. Tom Derosa, Lt. Dan Salas, Deputy James O'Doherty, and Deputy Dave Thompson. Honor Guard Members at the Suffolk County House of Correction include Deputy Kenneth Sheehan, Deputy Rich Camargo, Deputy Mary Marren, Deputy Bob Carey, Deputy Amy Flynn, Deputy John Corey, and Lt. Kylie Willhoite.



The work of the Honor Guard would not be possible without the collaboration of the Suffolk County Sheriff's Department Motor Cycle Unit, including Special Sheriff Abe Ayuso, Assistant Deputy Superintendent Walter Vasile, Lt. Jeff Gardiner, Deputy Shawn O'Brien, Lt. Stephen Miller, Deputy Lee De'Andrade, Deputy Bob Carey, Deputy Mary Marren, and Deputy Chris Warren.

EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHT: ASSISTANT DEPUTY SUPERINTENDENT WALTER VASILE

Assistant Deputy Superintendent (ADS) of Support Services Walter Vasile started as a jail officer with the Suffolk County Sheriff's Department in March of 1999.



Today, ADS Vasile oversees the Kitchen Unit, Laundry Unit, Maintenance Division, Loading Dock, Canteen Division, and Communications for the Suffolk County Jail, while supervising the Employee Assistance Program, Motorcycle Unit, and the Honor Guard.

Among routine duties, Honor Guard members serve as the official ceremonial unit for the Department, providing professional services for funerals, parades, and various ceremonies or functions. To get a better insight of the Honor Guard, we sat down with ADS Vasile to discuss his role in the division.

“Deputy Kenney Sheehan is my counterpart at the House of Correction; he is essential in helping to staff officers at Honor Guard functions,” said ADS Vasile. “Deputy Sheehan and I speak on the phone daily to ensure we are meeting the needs of the Honor Guard and discuss how we can improve the division and train additional officers on Honor Guard protocols.”

Speaking about the importance of the Honor Guard, ADS Vasile highlighted the Honor Guard's participation in memorial services stating, “The work of the Honor Guard at wakes and funerals is highly important. It is one of the last memories a family will have of a loved one. The family will remember the officers in full uniform, saluting the fallen, carrying the casket, and presenting the flag to family members. Although this is a sad moment, the Honor Guard recognizes the importance of memorializing the fallen officer or their family member.”

“We have great people on the Honor Guard,” continued ADS Vasile. “They are committed to the Department, dedicated to serving others, and are professionals. They give up weekends and holidays to serve the Honor Guards. They have stood in subzero and hundred degree weather to do the right thing, serving their community or the families of those who have passed away.”

“Honor Guard members want the best for the Department and its members. They want others to feel special, and they want to honor the families of those who have dedicated their lives to law enforcement.”

ADS Vasile has served on the Honor Guard for 23 years, the Motorcycle Unit for 21 years, and the Employee Assistance Program for 15 years.

Reflecting on his time with the Honor Guard, ADS Vasile said, “Every day in the United States, a law enforcement agent passes away. Protocol suggests wearing a band over your badge for seven days after their passing, but I choose to wear a band over my badge every day as a constant reminder of those who have passed before us and the sacrifices they've made.”



EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHT: HONOR GUARD LIAISON DEPUTY KENNY SHEEHAN

In 2008, Deputy Kenny Sheehan walked into the lobby of the Suffolk County House of Correction and noticed a group of Department Honor Guard members gearing up to attend two events, including a parade and funeral.

As Deputy Sheehan spoke with the Honor Guard members, he was informed that the division needed an additional officer to attend the funeral being held that day. Without hesitation, Deputy Sheehan volunteered his time to assist in the memorial service and has been involved with the Honor Guard ever since.

Today, Deputy Sheehan serves as the Honor Guard Liaison for the House of Correction. He works alongside Assistant Deputy Superintendent Vasile to ensure that all Honor Guard events are staffed with suitable officers.

“Officers recruited for the Honor Guard are squared away and take pride in wearing their uniform,” said Deputy Sheehan.

Deputy Sheehan started with the Suffolk County Sheriff’s Department in November of 2001. For nearly twenty-two years, Deputy Sheehan has dedicated his time to ensure that the Department is represented in the community and that his brother and sister officers are supported during their times of need.

“As the liaison and member of the Department’s Honor Guard, I have assisted in numerous community events, including the Special Olympics of Massachusetts, the Shamrock Shootout, hundreds of parades, Correction Officer Training Academy graduations, other Municipal Police Academy Graduations, and college graduations, including Bunker Hill Community College and Roxbury Community College. I take pride and I’m honored to assist in these events, and I have the opportunity to connect and meet other law enforcement professionals.”

When asked about his motivation to be on the Honor Guard, Deputy Sheehan stated, “I like being able to help others, and as a member of the Honor Guard, I have the opportunity to help family members when they lose a loved one. The families remember the efforts of the Honor Guard, and that goes a long way.”

Deputy Sheehan has received numerous “thank you” letters from grieving families for the Honor Guard’s consideration and thoughtfulness during their time of need.

While his commitment to the Department and his fellow officers is admirable, Deputy Sheehan’s exemplary actions have surpassed those of his job description. He has been recognized for his heroic efforts in preventing a juvenile from committing suicide and providing assistance to the Massachusetts State Police during an altercation involving a weapon while assigned to SCSD Transportation Unit. Deputy Sheehan has also been recognized by Boston Police Department for the information he provided to the Fugitive Unit Officers that lead to the apprehension of a murder suspect.

In addition to his duties as Honor Guard Liaison, Deputy Sheehan serves the House of Correction as a corrections officer and as a Peer Support Person for the Employee Assistance Program.

SUFFOLK COUNTY SHERIFFS DEPARTMENT WELCOMES 19 OFFICERS INTO SERVICE



The Suffolk County Sheriff's Department recently swore nineteen officers into the corrections profession following their graduation from the Department's Correction Officer Training Academy (COTA).

Members of COTA Class 22-04 gathered for a graduation ceremony held at Casa Lucia in Revere, MA, where Sheriff Steven W. Tompkins presided over the ceremony, accompanied by Superintendents Michael Colwell, William Sweeney and John McLaughlin, along with members of the Command Staff, the training academy, and the Department's Honor Guard. Graduates were joined by family and friends, and those who could not attend the graduation were able to observe the proceedings on the Department's Facebook Live broadcast.

Sheriff Steven Tompkins addressed the group welcoming the families of graduates and congratulating COTA Class 22-04 on their achievements.

"Our mandate is care, custody, and control. We do not stand as judge or jury. Our job is to make sure individuals within our care use their time productively so they can get back to their friends, families, and communities," Sheriff Tompkins continued, "Our job is to offer educational opportunities, lighten the load on the families, and to take care of our brothers and sisters, both in the Department and in the community."

In October, members of COTA Class 22-04 began a rigorous academy consisting of an intense core of practical and academic training that included; ethics and professionalism, suicide prevention, the use of force continuum, firearm safety and handling, inmate education and programming, contraband control, courtroom testimony, CORI and inmate rights and responsibilities, fire safety, CPR, harassment and discrimination prevention, cross-gender supervision, report writing, and more.

Cassandra Dyer, President of COTA Class 22-04, addressed the group by first thanking Sheriff Tompkins, his command staff, and the training academy staff.

"To the staff of individuals who woke up early and engaged every day for the last ten weeks, you taught us everything needed to be successful officers in corrections," stated Dyer. "We appreciate your ability to teach and the patience it took to mold us from where we were to where we are today," she continued, "There are no unclear or unanswered questions left behind. The knowledge and structure we have obtained will be the foundation of our tomorrows. We now have a blueprint to learn from and grow within our personal lives and our professional careers. Confidently, we represent ourselves, we represent our families, and we represent the Suffolk County Sheriff's Department. We are COTA 22-04"

Receiving special recognition for outstanding performance during the academy were Juan Seanne-Seri who was recognized for posting a Grade Point Average of 92.9%; Chanthan Neang, who received the Defensive Tactics Award for exceptional performance during defensive tactics training; Hitzal Saint Cyr, who received the Physical Fitness Award for outstanding performance in physical training; Cassandra Dyer who received the Unit Citation Award for outstanding leadership, motivational mentoring and demonstrated professional ethics; and Zashaire Liriano who received the Drill Instructor's Award for her leadership, motivation, esprit de corps and attention to detail.

The graduates from COTA Class 22-04 have been assigned to the Suffolk County Jail, and are as follows: Augustinho Mendes, Maya Young, Daniel Dunbar, Emerson Thomas, Dorval Adelson, Cassandra Dyer, Tykent Rogers, Hitzal Saint Cyr, Zasharie Liriano, Pierre Ulysse, Joidson Wagnac, Chanthan Neang, Janycia DeJesus, Benjy Antoine, Jackson Barboza Oville, Daniela Gomes, Scott Caspe, Rubenz Regis, and Juan Seoane-Seri.



SHERIFF TOMPKINS TAKES OATH OF OFFICE WITH ASSIST FROM CHIEF JUSTICE KIMBERLY BUDD



Suffolk County Sheriff Steven W. Tompkins was recently sworn back into service by Chief Justice of the Massachusetts Supreme Judicial Court Kimberly Budd.

In a special ceremony held at the House of Correction, Chief Justice Budd delivered the oath of office to Sheriff Tompkins, who now enters his second six-year term after winning his third election into service of the Suffolk County communities of Boston, Chelsea, Revere and Winthrop.

Following his appointment to the position by then-Governor Deval Patrick in January of 2013, Tompkins was officially elected in 2014 to serve out the remaining two years of his predecessor. He was then reelected in 2016 and again this past year in November of 2022.

Sheriff Tompkins spoke about the enormous honor of both being sworn back into service by the Chief Justice of the state's highest ranking court and returning to serve the people of the Suffolk County communities within Boston, Chelsea, Revere and Winthrop.

As the Sheriff of Suffolk County, Tompkins manages all operations at the Suffolk County House of Correction, the Suffolk County Jail and the Civil Process Division. In addition to providing care, custody and rehabilitative support for inmates and pretrial detainees, Tompkins also oversees a management, security and administrative staff of nearly 1,000. From the beginning of his service to the position, Sheriff Tompkins has worked to reduce recidivism through enhanced educational and vocational programming, addiction recovery and mental health services, and efforts to expand addiction recovery and mental health services in the and around the communities of Suffolk County.

With a new six-year term now underway, Sheriff Tompkins has begun laying the groundwork for even more innovative programming, including several new initiatives that will be announced over the course of the coming weeks, month and year.





SHERIFF STEVEN W. TOMPKINS
SUFFOLK COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT

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