

THE Hundred Call

***"The Club
with a Heart"***

**President: Peter S. Carozza, Jr.
Managing Director: Dale P. Hourigan**

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Firefighter's Death Ruled Job-Related

The death of North Haven firefighter Anthony DeSimone, on August 24, 2023, has been judged a "line of duty" death. DeSimone, 50, died after suffering a medical emergency as he arrived home from a 38-hour shift at the fire station. Family members saw him collapse and immediately called 911. He was transported to Yale New Haven Hospital where he was pronounced dead after resuscitation efforts were unsuccessful.



Lieutenant Anthony DeSimone

A 1991 graduate of North Haven High School, DeSimone had served as a volunteer firefighter with the Northeast Volunteer Fire Company #4 before becoming a career firefighter in 2000.

DeSimone was past president, past treasurer, and liaison for the North Haven Professional Firefighters Association, was a member of the North Haven Knights of Columbus, Council 3733, and coached North Haven Little League.

"Anthony was one of the pillars of the community and a part of the fabric of North Haven," said Pasquale Nuzzolillo, chairperson of the board of fire commissioners, which oversees the department. "He was a person who would always be willing to step up and volunteer to do whatever was necessary."

One of the best examples of DeSimone's selflessness, Nuzzolillo said, was when he took on the responsibility of serving as the liaison between the department and the family of the late Matthias Wirtz, a North Haven firefighter who collapsed and died last December while fighting a blaze.

"He has touched many people in the town of North Haven, whether it be as a firefighter in their worst moments of need or by just being out there and meeting people in a restaurant, shaking hands and embracing folks," Nuzzolillo said.

Hundreds gathered to say goodbye to the 23-year North Haven Fire Department veteran at his funeral services on Thursday, August 31. His chief remembered him as a reliable role model who lifted his comrades' spirits, an inspiring firefighter and a dedicated father.

"He had a natural calling to influence others, to be a role model to others, he was just a great person," said North Haven Fire Department Chief Paul Januszewski.



Firefighters line up for a procession to honor Lieutenant Anthony DeSimone at the North Haven Funeral Home

Januszewski said that firefighters, faced with always meeting people on their worst days, can struggle to stay in high spirits on shift. But with DeSimone around, there was always a light.

"What he would always bring to the shift was a lightheartedness, words of praise and focus on moving forward," said Januszewski. "And for a lot of guys that's really all they needed to keep moving. He was beloved by his coworkers; they all looked up to him."

DeSimone Remembered

Commenting on the length of DeSimone's schedule, prior to his death, Januszewski said that while a 38-hour shift may sound exhaustive, for most firefighters it is the standard.

The North Haven Fire Department pivoted to a standard schedule of 24 hours on, 72 hours off about 10 years ago after union workers pushed for the change, Januszewski said.

Januszewski said that with longer periods of time off, firefighters typically come in for their 24-hour shift well-rested, and it isn't uncommon for firefighters to pick up overtime at the front end or back end of a shift.

"It's a very, very common schedule," Januszewski said. "It's like that almost everywhere, it's a desirable schedule for firefighters because they would rather come in and work one day," instead of working three shorter shifts. The 24-hour shift also prevents firefighters from switching from the day shift to the night shift, which can be mentally taxing, Januszewski said.

Januszewski said it was common for DeSimone, who was on track to be promoted to lieutenant, to pick up overtime.

DeSimone had passed both written and assessment center testing and had been taking continuing education classes to prepare for the leadership role. He was posthumously promoted to lieutenant.

"Whether it was coaching baseball or being involved with cheerleading for his daughter, he was always there for his children," Januszewski said. "The time that he had that he wasn't at work; he doubled down and made the most of the time with his kids."

Survived by his wife, Pamela Parauka DeSimone, and two children, Dominic and Victoria, DeSimone was laid to rest at All Saints Cemetery in North Haven.



Photo Credit: Aaron Flaum/Hartford Courant

North Haven Lieutenant Benjamin Fox lays Lieutenant Anthony DeSimone's turnout coat on North Haven's Engine 9

Annual Meeting Held in Berlin

The 56th Annual Meeting of The Hundred Club of Connecticut was held at Casa Mia at the Hawthorne in Berlin on October 25th. The luncheon event attracted 264 members and guests, including eleven widows of fallen officers.

Kevin Hogan, the former WFSB News Channel 3 Bureau Chief, reprised his role as the Master of Ceremonies. The meeting opened with the posting of the colors by the Connecticut State Police Honor Guard, the Department of Correction Honor Guard and the Connecticut State Fire Service Honor Guard, accompanied by the Middletown PBA and Department of Correction Pipes and Drums.

With the audience on its feet and the flag bearers at attention, Hogan led the audience in the Pledge of Allegiance and introduced Club Chaplain Father Michael Dolan, who offered a prayer of thanksgiving and remembrance of the year's fallen heroes.

Hogan then introduced

President Peter Carozza, who welcomed everyone and asked for a moment of silence to remember the officers lost during the past year, including Hartford Police Detective Robert Garten, who had been killed in a traffic crash just weeks earlier.

Former President and Chair of the Nominating Committee, Peter Guerra, introduced the new members of the Board of Directors. After the entire group assembled at the front of the room for a photograph, Managing Director Dale Hourigan presented the President's gavel to Robert "Bob" O'Shaughnessy, the incoming President.



Hundred Club Board of Directors

Annual Meeting

The meeting's keynote speaker was John J. Armstrong, the former Commissioner of the Connecticut Department of Correction. Mr. Armstrong began his career 1977, when he joined the Department as a Correction Officer at the New Haven Correction Center. Over the next eighteen years he advanced through the agency, receiving successive promotions, gaining new experience and broadening his understanding of the profession.



Former Correction Commissioner John Armstrong

He was appointed Commissioner of the department in 1995 by Governor Rowland. As the Chief Executive Officer, he administered the operations of 18 facilities and community supervision programs, serving 21,000 offenders, 7,000 employees and a budget of \$500 million. Since his retirement from state service in 2003, Armstrong has served as a subject matter expert, advising groups such as the US National Institute of Justice, the American Correctional Association and the National Iraqi Corrections Service. He has also served on the faculty of a number of colleges, providing instruction in criminal justice subjects.

He opened his remarks by noting a dramatic distinction between correction workers and their public safety counterparts in law enforcement and the fire service. While uniformed police officers and firefighters are highly visible to the public as they perform their daily services, the work of correction officers remains unseen, unknown and, often-times, unappreciated.

The contemporary cycle of news reports, frequently sensationalizing assaults, suicides and escapes, further exacerbates the public's lack of understanding and appreciation of the corrections function.

As a consequence, the essential and positive functions of corrections go unrecognized. These critical duties include ensuring the safety and security of inmates; providing guidance, education and opportunities for personal growth; aiding in rehabilitation and reintegration into society; and supervision through parole and other reentry programs.

The occupational hazards associated with the work have been shown to have significant consequences for the physical and mental health of correction officers. Armstrong noted that, according to the Prison Policy Initiative, correction officers have:

ers have:

- Higher rates of cardiovascular disease;
- Higher rates of chronic pain, fatigue and musculoskeletal disorders;
- Higher rates of substance abuse;
- Higher rates of divorce; and
- Higher rates mortality. On average, correction officers live 62.4 years, compared to 74.2 years for the general population.

In summary, Armstrong observed that not everyone can be a correction officer. "It requires strength of character, courage, dedication, compassion and resilience", he said. "It also requires the support, respect and appreciation of legislators, justice system colleagues, family members and society at large."



Bob O'Shaughnessy receives the President's Gavel from Managing Director Dale Hourigan

As a final tribute to the families, Dale Hourigan, assisted by Second Vice President Jason Leavitt and Tracy Parke, from the House of Flora, presented bouquets of flowers to the widows in attendance.



Dale Hourigan presents a bouquet to Pamela Lavery, widow of Master Police Officer Peter Lavery

In closing the meeting, Kevin Hogan saluted the Club's membership noting, "The sole reason for the existence of The Hundred Club is to honor the memory of the Connecticut public safety officers who have given their lives in the line of duty. We do this by making sure they will know that we will be there to take care of their spouses and families. The Club is only able to do this because of you, the members, who are so very generous, loyal and committed".

O'Shaughnessy Assumes Presidency

Robert "Bob" O'Shaughnessy is the new President of The Hundred Club of Connecticut. He assumes the position from Peter Carozza, who served a two year term.

A member of the Club since 2013, he was elected to the Board of Directors in 2018. He has served on its Catastrophic Injury Committee and, most recently, chaired the Annual Meeting Committee.

Bob is a 25-year veteran of the Connecticut State Police. The Brooklyn, New York native joined the department in 1967, after serving as a hospital corpsman in the US Navy. During his career with the agency, he advanced through progressively responsible positions, being promoted to Sergeant, Lieutenant and Captain.



Robert J. O'Shaughnessy

He served as the Commanding Officer of two field troops – Troop E in Montville and Troop K in Colchester. In this capacity, he managed resources, including troopers, constables and civilian employees, to provide efficient and effective public safety services to multiple municipalities in the surrounding areas.

A certified scuba diver, he also commanded the Emergency Services Unit, a group of specialized officers trained in bomb and hazardous material disposal, underwater search and recovery operations, marine patrol, tactical team operations and canine services, working throughout the state.

As Deputy Commanding Officer of the Eastern District, he assisted in the formulation of goals, objectives and major operational policies for four field troops, a Traffic Enforcement Unit and Major Crime Squad.

Bob attended the University of New Haven, receiving a bachelor's degree in Criminal Justice Administration in 1973. A graduate of the FBI National Academy, he has earned graduate credits in criminal justice studies and attended a wide variety of specialized training programs throughout his law enforcement career.

Following his retirement from the State Police, he entered the field of corporate security and investigations. Beginning in 1992, he served as the Director of Operations for Boardson Associates, a private security firm providing VIP protection, uniformed private security and investigative services to clients throughout the northeast and Florida.

In 1997, he joined the Hartford Insurance Company as their Director of Investigative Services. As such, he was responsible for the management of all internal investigations, both nationally and internationally, of misconduct by employees, vendors, agents and brokers. He also oversaw the operations of the company's Background Unit that performed all pre-employment investigations of employees.

In addition to his commitment to The Hundred Club, Bob has been active in several other community service organizations. He was a long-time volunteer for Wheels of Mobility, a small non-profit that refurbished electric wheelchairs and donated them to needy recipients, prioritizing military veterans. He is also a member of the President's Council, an advisory group to the President of the Mystic Aquarium.

A member of the Stonington Board of Police Commissioners since 2016, he served as its Chairman between 2020 and 2023. He is currently on the Board of Directors of the Connecticut Law Enforcement Memorial Foundation.

Chief among the goals of his presidency, Bob wants to increase outreach to the public safety organizations served by the Club. By directly interacting with the chiefs' associations representing the CEOs of the state's fire and police departments, the Club will be able to inform these administrators of its purpose and mission, thereby facilitating its involvement when circumstances require it. Communicating the functions and services of the Club to the public safety community will also, undoubtedly, help to increase its membership.

Unique shield issued to families — Family members of fallen officers, supported by The Hundred Club, were recently given specially designed shields for their vehicles. The familiar shield, with the Club logo, has a gold star applied to it, signifying the lost officer.



New Directors Appointed

Three new Directors have been appointed to The Hundred Club's Board of Directors, replacing retiring members. The new members will serve a three-year term, expiring on December 31, 2026.

David DelVecchia is a Senior Vice President in Operational Risk Management for Liberty Bank. As the financial institution's Bank Security Officer, he is responsible for managing all fraud and special investigative functions, developing and administering all aspects of the Bank's physical security program, and providing for the protection of the institution's employees, customers, assets, as well as security and fraud related training.

DelVecchia assumed this position in 2019, following a 25-year career with the Connecticut State Police. At the time of his retirement, he was assigned as the Commanding Officer of the Professional Standards and Compliance Unit, which oversaw all complaints and internal affairs investigations, managed the inspection function for the entire agency, and administered the Department's continued compliance with national accreditation standards. During his tenure with the department, he also served as the Deputy Commanding Officer of the Western District, Commanding Officer of the Western District Major Crime Squad, and Commanding Officer of Troop L – Litchfield and Troop I – Bethany.

A graduate of the FBI National Academy, DelVecchia also holds a Master of Science degree in Strategic Leadership, with a concentration in Crisis Management.

Jay Malcynsky is the co-founder and managing partner of Gaffney, Bennett and Associates, Inc. Jay is also a practicing attorney licensed in Connecticut and Washington, D.C., and is the founder and managing partner of The Law Offices of Jay F. Malcynsky, P.C. In these capacities, Jay has distinguished himself as one of the most knowledgeable, highly respected, and capable professionals in the fields of government relations and political consulting, as well as administrative law.

The University of Bridgeport Law School graduate has helped transform his firm into one which is perennially recognized as the premier firm of its kind in Connecticut -- with about 80 registered clients — the most of any Connecticut lobbying firm — from a wide range of industries, including banking and finance, utilities, digital media, law, and health care.

He has served on the Board of Directors of the Federal Home Loan Bank of Boston, CT Legal Services, CT Judicial Selection Commission, the New Britain Chamber of Commerce, and currently serves as Chairman of the Board of the Nutmeg State Games, is a member of the Quinnipiac School of Law Dean's Advisory Council, and a board member of the CT Museum of Culture and History (CT Historical Society).

John Jacewicz retired as Vice President and Deputy General Auditor for the Hartford Financial Services Group. With a budget of \$2.5 million, he was responsible for the company's worldwide investigative services, including all allegations of misconduct or criminal activity perpetrated by employees, vendors, contractors and agents.

Prior to joining the Fortune 100 company, the Western New England College School of Law graduate spent 22 years with the Connecticut State Police. Progressing through successively advanced positions, he served in multiple specialized roles, including Labor Relations Specialist, Chief of Staff, Accreditation Manager, Commanding Officer of the Training Academy, and District Commander. Concurrently, he served as an adjunct faculty member at Central Connecticut State University, teaching a number of business law and criminal justice courses.

Jacewicz also served more than twenty years with the Connecticut Army National Guard, including fourteen as a Commissioned Officer, retiring with the rank of Major. In addition to serving ten years as a Staff Advocate General, he was also the Company Commander for the 143rd Military Police Company.

Liberty Bank Makes Gift In Memory of Detective Garten

The Hundred Club of Connecticut is, once again, the grateful recipient of a generous grant from the Liberty Bank Foundation. It was recently announced that the bank would donate \$15,000 to support the Club's Hero's Fund, in the memory of Hartford police Detective Bobby Garten. This is the second consecutive year that the bank has supported the Club with a significant memorial gift.

Since its inception in 1997, the Liberty Bank Foundation has awarded over \$17 million in grants to nonprofit organizations throughout Liberty Bank's market area. Following the Bank's 'Be Community Kind' spirit, the Foundation seeks to improve the lives of individuals and families.

David W. Glidden, the President & CEO of Liberty Bank, noted, "Most of us cannot fully comprehend the heartache families go through after losing a loved one tragically in the line of duty, especially doing what they do best: selflessly serving and protecting our community. Yet, we can appreciate the financial challenges they will face."

"The Liberty Team will always do our part to support our communities during difficult times and that includes honoring our fallen heroes, like we've recently done through The Hundred Club of Connecticut in memory of Detective Bobby Garten."

"On behalf of the Liberty Team," Glidden added, "'thank you' to The Hundred Club for all you do."

Established in 1825, Liberty Bank is the oldest and largest independent mutual bank in the country. With more than \$7 billion in assets, Liberty has 56 banking offices across Connecticut and one in Massachusetts.



"The Club with a Heart"

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Giving thanks...

During the holidays, The Hundred Club receives numerous cards and notes from family members, expressing their gratitude for the Club's support throughout the year. The following represents a small sample:

I can't thank you enough for all the years that you never forgot me.

Thank you for making Thanksgiving and Christmas extra special. As each year passes, we know that you are there remembering our loved ones with us.

We are forever grateful for all your goodness over all the years (41). Blessings to all.

Thank you so much for your constant kindness and generosity. It means a lot that you remember my family throughout the year. You truly are "The Club with a Heart"!

Thank you from the bottom of my heart and for being an important part of my life.

Thank you for remembering our family. We would not be able to get through Christmas without your love and support each year!