

THE Hundred Call

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

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State Police Sergeant Brian Mohl Dies During Storm

A well-respected veteran Connecticut State Trooper lost his life in the early morning hours of September 2, as sweeping floodwaters from the Pomperaug River flooded a road in Woodbury. Sergeant Brian E. Mohl, a 26-year veteran of the department, was supervising the Litchfield Barracks' midnight shift at the time.

Sergeant Mohl was working near Jacks Bridge Road as the remnants of Hurricane Ida sweep through the northeast, drenching the area in more than seven inches of torrential rain. He radioed Troop L at 3:30 a.m. to report his cruiser was caught in swift floodwater and that he needed help.

Other first responders "pinged" the sergeant's phone to try to find him, but it wasn't until after daybreak that searchers, including a helicopter and dive teams, found his cruiser mostly submerged in water. They used debris to break into the vehicle, but found it empty. It took another hour of searching by ground and air, using drones and helicopters as the storm continued, to find the sergeant in the water farther down the river.

Paramedics treated Mohl both on the water and the shore as they rushed him to a waiting Life Star helicopter to fly to Yale New Haven Health, but he was presumed dead during the flight. Doctors at the hospital officially confirmed his death when he arrived.

The Office of the Chief Medical Examiner subsequently reported his death was an accident caused by blunt trauma to the chest.

Flanked by a line of solemn troopers, state police commanders met with the media outside the Litchfield Barracks to announce Sergeant Mohl's death.

"It is with deep regret and sadness that I report that the State Police today lost a good man who dedicated more than a quarter-century to protecting the citizens of Connecticut. Sergeant Mohl was committed to helping others, to keeping public safety his priority and to always assisting his fellow Troopers," said Colonel Stavros Mellekas, Commanding Officer of the State Police.



Sergeant Brian E. Mohl
CSP Graduation—November 25, 1994

"Every line of duty death is heartbreaking and the loss of Sergeant Mohl is no different. He was outside, in the middle of the night, in horrendous conditions, patrolling the Troop L area. He was doing a job he loved and he was taken much too soon," Colonel Mellekas added.

Governor Ned Lamont and U.S. Rep. Jahana Hayes, D-5th District, both attended the briefing and offered condolences to Commissioner James Rovella, Mellekas and other state police officers outside the Troop L Barracks.

A somber Lamont ruefully recalled that just a week ago, he joined the celebration as a new state police class graduated from the academy. Lamont said troopers take care of the public every day.

"I was telling everybody stay safe, stay home — ride out the storm. That's not what you do as a trooper. As a trooper, you go out and you try to rescue others, take care of them," Lamont said. "Today we stand together as one as a family, with the trooper's family and all the troopers together." He directed U.S. and state flags lowered to half-staff in Connecticut.

Sergeant Mohl entered the State Police Training Academy on November 25, 1994, and graduated on June 1, 1995, with the 105th Training Troop. He was assigned to Troop A in Southbury and transferred to Troop L in Litchfield after being promoted to Sergeant in May 2000. He also served as Sergeant at Troop B in North Canaan, Troop G in Bridgeport and Troop H in Hartford before returning to Troop L in 2008.



Sergeant Brian E. Mohl

Sergeant Mohl is the 25th Connecticut State Trooper to die in the line of duty. He died on the 11th anniversary of the death of Trooper First Class Kenneth Hall, who was killed when his patrol car was struck on I-91 by another motorist.

State Police Sergeant Laid to Rest

Hundreds of mourners gathered at the Xfinity Theater in Hartford on Thursday, September 9, for the funeral of Sergeant Brian Mohl, who was swept away in floodwaters from the remnants of Hurricane Ida a week before.

The two-hour ceremony began and ended with the wail of bagpipes and the boom of drums as law enforcement officers from across the nation assembled for the farewell rites honoring the 26-year Connecticut State Police veteran.

Mohl was born in the Bronx, graduated from John Jay High School in East Fishkill, NY, attended Dutchess Community College and graduated from Marist College. He worked as a seasonal officer for the Suffolk County Police Department in the summer of 1994, before entering the Connecticut State Police Academy in November of 1994.

Mohl is survived by his wife, Susan, and son, Brian Mohl II, age 14; two step-children, Samantha Ganem, 24, and Peter Ganem, 28; his brothers, Major George Mohl and Sgt. Scott Mohl, both of the New York State Police; his brother, Timmy; his two sisters, Frances and Laura; and his parents, George and Frances Mohl, of New York.

New York state troopers were well represented in the audience, a sea of crisp uniforms that also included New England states and departments as far away as Texas and New Mexico. Connecticut state police commander Colonel Stavros Mellekas said the showing was proof of the tight bond between first responders.

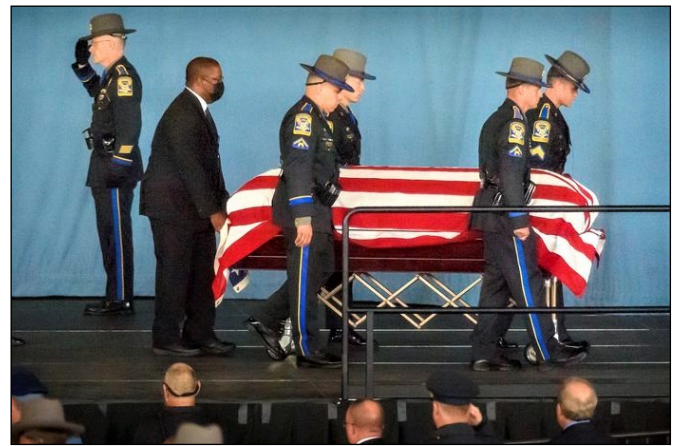
Mohl, Mellekas said, could be counted on to get a job done with confidence and common sense.

"Brian," he said, "please know that you made a difference in the lives of others and we will continue to carry on that mission."

Mohl was remembered as a hardworking, blunt, straight-shooting trooper who loved the midnight shift. He also was eulogized as a kind and generous family man and friend, who had a nickname for everyone. He loved shopping in bulk at Costco, giving gifts and teasing those he loved.

His younger sister Laura Singh remembered how he would sneak around her house changing the toilet paper rolls in the bathrooms so that they pulled from underneath rather than over the top.

"It's hard for me to wrap my head around the fact that my brother is gone. It's harder still to think about how he left this world alone in a stormy night. But it's harder yet that I can't imagine that Brian won't be with us to create more family memories for the rest of our lives," Mohl's sister Laura Singh said during his funeral on Thursday.



Pallbearers escort Sergeant Mohl



Maine State Trooper salutes his colleague



Sergeant Mohl's sisters embrace

State Police Sergeant Laid to Rest

His other sister, Frances Gordon, said her brother always seemed to be working.

"It's not a surprise to me that his way of leaving us was via the job," she said. "Service to the greater good, right?"

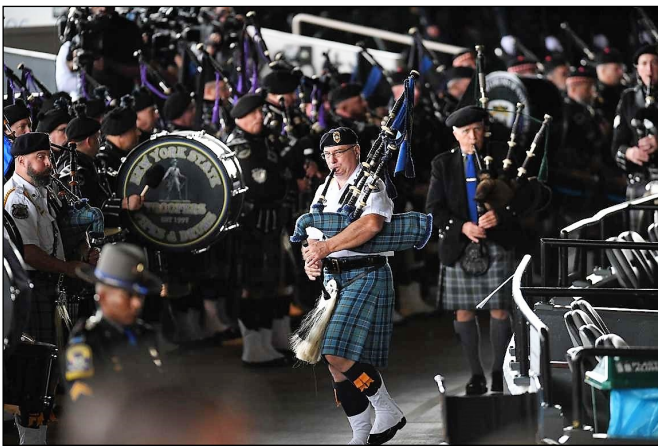
Retired Connecticut State Trooper Gary Williams, one of Mohl's closest friends, said, "If you didn't know him, you'd think he was a perpetually cranky old man. But I've rarely come across a man with the generosity of spirit that Brian had."

Mohl's passion though, was his son Brian, friends and relatives said. After working overtime, the trooper would come home and practice soccer with his son for hours. His obituary said that "Little Brian" was an avid and competitive soccer player and his father loved watching him play all around the world.

In his homily, State Police and Hundred Club Chaplain, Father Michael Dolan said, "Every State Trooper's uniform carries a shoulder patch depicting the three vines emblematic of the original settlements of Windsor, Wethersfield and Hartford that were the seedbed of what was to become our State of Connecticut. Beneath that shield is a quotation from Psalm 80 in the Hebrew Scriptures that is rendered in Latin, "Qui transtulit sustinet"- He who transplants, sustains. The one who takes the good given him and spreads what is good, is the one who endures. What a fitting motto for a Trooper, who experienced in his family, in his Marist College classmates, in the camaraderie of the 105th Training Troop and in the State Police barracks, that very goodness he spread throughout his vocation of law enforcement."

As the funeral concluded an honor guard fired a 21-gun salute and a bugler played taps.

A final radio call with Mohl's badge number was transmitted across the State Police radio system — "Troop L to 283 ... Thank you for your dedication and service. Your brothers and sisters will take the watch from here."



Pipes and drums



Rifle salute



Troopers retire from the service

Burlington Firefighter Colin McFadden Remembered

Burlington Volunteer Firefighter Colin James McFadden died at John Dempsey Hospital on August 12, 2021. He collapsed at the scene of a massive fire that destroyed the historic New Hartford House, serving alongside nearly 100 other firefighters from Burlington and 28 other fire departments. Paramedics rushed him to the hospital where doctors identified and operated on a brain hemorrhage caused by undiagnosed acute promyelocytic leukemia. The brain hemorrhage caused McFadden's collapse at the fire. Despite the valiant efforts of his medical team, the 26 year old firefighter did not recover.



Firefighter Colin McFadden

Two other firefighters suffered minor injuries fighting the blaze at the New Hartford building, which was built in 1850 and contained businesses and apartments. None of the 22 residents were injured.

McFadden joined the Burlington Volunteer Fire Department (BVFD) as a 20 year old in 2015, a logical step in his lifelong love of emergency services. While McFadden lived in Bristol, he was close enough to BVFD Station 2 to join the department. He completed Connecticut Firefighter I and II training courses, along with many supplemental classes. While serving as a firefighter, he became an EMT and served on the BVFD Ambulance staff, responding to non-critical calls as well as cases requiring lifesaving care.



Vintage fire truck, carrying Firefighter Colin McFadden, arrives at Saint Matthew Church

Hundreds of firefighters and first responders across the state gathered outside Saint Matthew Church in Bristol, where McFadden's funeral service was held. McFadden's father, Shawn, and Burlington Volunteer Fire Chief Michael Boucher closed the ceremony with eulogies. His coffin, a Navy blue that matched his fellow firefighter's blue suits,

was plated with fire department tags on the corners.

Bagpipers and drummers played as firefighters carried the casket out of the church. Before the casket was placed in the back of a vintage fire truck bound for St. Joseph's Cemetery for the burial, an official rang a bell nine times to honor McFadden's service to the fire department. Firefighters from numerous departments who gathered outside the church saluted.

"One of the things that is history in the fire service is the tolling of the bells, and what you'll hear is that the firefighter's life is surrounded by the tolling of the bells. It signals the start of their day, it signals when there's a fire, it signals when it's time to go back to the station," Mark Amatrudo, the commander of Connecticut's statewide honor guard, said. "The bell is in tribute to and in honor of what Colin did for the Burlington Fire Department and the Town of Burlington."



A Burlington Fire Department officer carries the helmet of Burlington Volunteer Firefighter Colin McFadden during his funeral service

McFadden was remembered as an active community volunteer who loved firefighting and was an advocate for people with autism. He was diagnosed with Asperger's Syndrome as a child and spoke to state lawmakers and the media on Autism Awareness Day at the state Capitol in 2015 when he was 19, his family said in his obituary.

During the coronavirus pandemic, he helped direct traffic for testing and food distribution sites and made N95 masks on his two 3D printers for staff at UConn Health, his family said. He was also a member of the Bristol Community Emergency Response Team (CERT).

"He was a keystone kind of guy that you could always count on," Richard Lambert, the captain of the Bristol Community Emergency Response Team and who knew the firefighter for 12 years, said. "If there was a list of people who were going to participate, he was always on the top of the list."

Gov. Ned Lamont ordered all U.S. and state flags to be flown at half-staff in McFadden's honor.

Ricardo Torres Jr.'s Name Added To Fallen Firefighters Memorial

The Nineteenth Annual Firefighters' Memorial Service was held on Sunday, September 26, on the grounds of the Connecticut Fire Academy in Windsor Locks. Numerous active and retired members of the fire service, representatives of other public safety services, and family members of the fallen assembled to remember and honor Connecticut firefighters who died in the line of duty.

This year, the name of New Haven Firefighter Ricardo "Rico" Torres, Jr. was added to the Memorial Honor Roll, joining 345 other firefighters who made the ultimate sacrifice. The 30 year old died of injuries suffered on May 12, 2021, when he responded to a house fire on Valley Street in New Haven.

The young firefighter, who joined the New Haven Fire Department in July 2019, is survived by his wife, Erica Martinez, and two sons, Oliver and Crew, who was born in August, three months after his father's death.

The memorial ceremony began with the posting of the colors by the Connecticut Statewide Honor Guard, accompanied by bagpiper and retired East Hartford firefighter Hal Grout and the New London Firefighters Pipes and Drums.

A large procession of New Haven firefighters marched past the granite memorial to join the other attendees. Among the New Haven contingent was Lieutenant Samod Rankins, the second firefighter that suffered severe injuries in the Valley Street blaze. Rankins was in critical condition in the Connecticut Burn Center at Bridgeport Hospital and put into a medically induced coma. He was released from Bridgeport Hospital two weeks later, but was treated at Yale New Haven Hospital for lung complications. The young Lieutenant has been recovering since.



Lt. Rankin (2nd from left) leads New Haven contingent

New Britain Fire Department Deputy Chief Paul Walsh served as Master of Ceremonies. He led the attendees in the Pledge of Allegiance and then introduced New Haven Firefighter Erika Bogan, who sang the National Anthem, and Father Kevin Donovan, Chaplain of the Connecticut State Firefighters Association, who offered an invocation.

Peter Carozza, Jr., Chairman of the Commission on Fire Prevention and Control, President of the Uniformed Professional Firefighters Association, and First Vice President of the Hundred Club of Connecticut, was the ceremony's Keynote Speaker. During his remarks, he paid tribute to Firefighter Torres, expressed condolences to his assembled family members and recognized the presence of Lieutenant Rankins.



Peter Carozza addresses memorial audience

Carozza spoke about the inherent dangers that firefighters face every day. He also noted how the frequent exposure to hazardous materials has become an increasing threat to firefighters.

"Firefighters are constantly exposed to chemicals, toxins and other hazards beyond their control. While responding to a call for help, at the scene of a fire, or attending some other emergency, occupational diseases are becoming more and more common in today's fire service."

"Heart disease, respiratory illness, cancer, and Post Traumatic Stress Disorder all have an effect on firefighters here in Connecticut and across the country. This past year, fire departments and other first responders have had to – and continue to – deal with the threat of COVID-19."

A somber presentation of memorial gifts was made to Torres' widow Erica Martinez and his mother Cathy Foster-Mendez. Deputy Chief Walsh gave each a bouquet of red roses and a crystal Lucite flame, inscribed with Torres' name and the dates of his service.

Following the traditional tolling of the bell, marking a firefighter's death, three memorial wreaths were laid at the base of the monument. Bagpiper Grout then played a moving rendition of Amazing Grace. The ceremony concluded with a benediction by Father Donovan and retiring the colors by the Color Guard.



Erica Martinez receives memorial gifts

Family Day at Mystic Aquarium

On Wednesday, July 21, the Connecticut Law Enforcement Memorial Foundation (CLEM) and Mystic Aquarium once again hosted Family Day for relatives of Connecticut police officers who died in the line of duty. This was the sixth annual event that the Aquarium sponsored for the survivors' group.

The day's events began when the families arrived at the Aquarium entrance by municipal and State Police officers and their cruisers. Following their welcome by CLEM members and Aquarium representatives, the families were escorted to the Marine Theater where they had VIP seating for the California sea lion show. At the conclusion of the show, the families remained in the theatre for a special "up close and personal" sea lion encounter.



Juno poses for a picture

The animal trainers discussed each of the rescued sea lion's unique stories and offered an explanation of training programs, animal biology, natural history, and current conservation issues. Following the visit with the sea lions, the group received a guided tour of the new exhibits including the Beluga whales.

After a luncheon at the Aquarium, the group was greeted by special visitors; an African penguin and its trainer mingled with the guests and answered questions about being a penguin and living along its rocky coastline home. The families were then broken into groups and received guided tours of the entire Aquarium facility. The Main Gallery included tanks with exotic marine animals including stingrays, sharks, moray eels, jellyfish, and fluorescent corals. Discover Long Island Sound is an immersive experience that highlights the local estuary with a hands-on watershed model and a touch experience with native invertebrates. The Marsh Trek, an outdoor boardwalk, offered views of frogs, turtles and ducks in their native habitat. The group also spent time at the Arctic Coast exhibit, with its 20-foot-long underwater viewing windows. There, they again interacted with the Beluga whales, especially Juno, who has a habit of "photo bombing" aquarium guests taking selfies.

Later in the afternoon, the families adjourned to the Mystic Yachting Center for a clambake. Normally, the group would have been invited to tour Mystic Harbor and parts of Long Island Sound on several assembled police boats. Unfortunately, because of the threat of thunderstorms, the boat tours had to be cancelled. Nevertheless, the pool was open for swimming. The day ended with a New England clambake of lobsters, clams, chicken, corn, potatoes and strawberry shortcake.

The purpose of Family Day is to provide the survivor families with an opportunity to relax, enjoy themselves and interact with the other families. Over the past six years, it has been rewarding to watch as lasting friendships develop among the families, members of the Connecticut Law Enforcement Memorial Foundation and the staff at the Mystic Aquarium.

The Managing Director of The Hundred Club and Chair of the Foundation, James ("Skip") Thomas, expressed his appreciation for those who helped make the annual outing a success. "We at the Connecticut Law Enforcement Memorial Foundation would like to thank the Mystic Aquarium for a great day, Ocean Blue Catering for feeding our group and Lydia Shell, Director of Development at the Mystic Aquarium, for setting up all of the details of our visit."

Life Membership Criteria Updated

After extensive study of the history and background of Life Membership in The Hundred Club, the Board of Directors voted at their April 2021 meeting to modify the requirements for Life Membership status as follows:

Going forward, all new Life Members must be at least 75 years of age, having at least 15 years of continuous membership in the Club. The member shall donate a total of \$500 in the year of conversion to Life Membership, and is excused from dues thereafter.

The Board of Directors has given the Managing Director the authority to use discretion with those who would have been eligible under the old criteria during this period of transition. Please call the office if you would like to be considered, and thank you for your support!

Special Concert Commemorates 9/11 and Benefits The Hundred Club

The Middlesex Hospital Vocal Chords choral group presented their *20th Anniversary 9/11 Tribute Concert* at The Bushnell Center for the Performing Arts in Hartford on Saturday, September 11. The Vocal Chords show was the first concert event held at The Bushnell since it was shuttered due to the COVID-19 pandemic 16 months ago. A portion of the show's proceeds will be donated to The Hundred Club of Connecticut.

The concert opened with the audience on their feet as an honor guard led a procession of firefighters, police, EMS, armed forces members and veterans into the auditorium. Following the performance of the National Anthem and recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance, the first responders were given reserved front row seats.

Guest speakers included Hartford Mayor Luke Bronin and Lt. Gov. Susan Bysiewicz. The moderator was radio personality Jerry Kristafer, who performed several readings reflecting on 9/11.

Bysiewicz recalled that she was serving as Secretary of the State when the 9/11 attacks occurred. She noted that municipal primary elections were happening around the state on that day, and that after considering cancelling the election, they were held — “the terrorists can't stop us from voting!” — and attendance at the polls was unexpectedly strong. In her remarks, Bysiewicz paid tribute to “my children's teacher's husband,” Middlefield resident Bruce Eagleson, who was working at the World Trade Center that day and rescued over a dozen colleagues before the building collapsed on him.

The Vocal Chords honored the victims of 9/11 with patriotic songs, including “God Bless America”, “Give Me Your Tired, Your Poor Distant Land” and “Song for the Unsung Hero,” plus appropriately themed pop songs such as “You'll Never Walk Alone.”

Other performers included the Portland and Middletown High Schools' Advanced Choirs and the Middletown Police Benefit Association Pipes & Drums.



Managing Director Skip Thomas, with his wife Jane, and law enforcement personnel



The Bushnell



The Honor Guard posts the colors on stage with the Middlesex Health Vocal Chords

The Hundred Club Annual Meeting

Wednesday, October 27, 2021; 11:30 am – 2:00 pm

The Promenade Ballroom, 165 Brainard Road, Hartford, CT 06114

Special Guest Speaker - Acting United States Attorney Leonard Boyle

Attorney Boyle is well known throughout Connecticut for his commitment to public safety, having first served as a Police Officer for the Town of East Hartford. Mr. Boyle previously served in the U.S. Attorney's Office from 1986-1998, eventually becoming Chief of the Criminal Division. After a short time in private practice, he returned to government service as a Special Attorney to the U.S. Attorney General where he investigated and prosecuted corrupt relationships between law enforcement personnel and organized crime figures in the Boston area. He then served as Counsel to the U.S. Attorney and supervised the Corporate Fraud Unit.

In addition, Mr. Boyle has served as Director of the FBI's Terrorist Screening Center in Washington D.C., and as Commissioner of the Department of Public Safety for Connecticut from 2004-2007.

He is a graduate of the University of Hartford and the UCONN School of Law.

Program Master of Ceremonies: Kevin Hogan, WFSB News Channel 3 Bureau Chief



"The Club with a Heart"

The Hundred Club of Connecticut
119 Oakwood Drive
P.O. Box 419
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On the twentieth anniversary of the September 11th terrorist attacks, we remember the victims and honor the public safety heroes.

Firefighter Kevin M. Prior, FDNY Squad 252



Port Authority Police Department Officer James Lynch

