



FBINAA Chapter Chat

Chapter Chat is your monthly roundup of news and updates from across our chapters and membership!

Help us celebrate and stay connected by sharing what's happening in your chapter and among your Session mates. We welcome submissions including Chapter News, Retrainers, Promotions, Retirements, Awards, Passings, and other noteworthy updates.

September 2026 By Our FBINAA Members

Arizona Chapter News



YLP #27 Graduate Samuel Yu

The Arizona Chapter is excited that our YLP Session 27 student, Samuel Yu, received the John A. Wagner Jr. Memorial Award. Samuel Yu represented our chapter this year and stood out for his attributes, leadership, and demeanor. We are proud that Samuel represented our chapter so well.

Promotions



Jennifer Borquez, NA Session 295

Arizona Department of Public Safety promoted **Jennifer Borquez, NA Session 295**, to the rank of Lieutenant Colonel and Assistant Director in the Agency Support Division in August.



Fabian Gonzales, NA Session 291

Phoenix Police promoted **Fabian Gonzales, NA Session 291**, to the rank of Commander.

Retirements



Robert "Bob" Sommerfeld, NA Session 224

Assistant Chief **Robert "Bob" Sommerfeld, NA Session 224**, is retiring from the University of Arizona Police Department after 40 years of dedicated service to the community. In his retirement, Bob looks forward to spending time with his wife, Gloria, and reading magazines.



Amy Bonney, NA Session 257

Police Chief **Amy Bonney, NA Session 257**, retired in July from the City of Prescott, where she served honorably for over 28 years. In her retirement, she plans to get her knee replaced so she can spend more time in her favorite place, Disneyland, with her daughter.

California Chapter News



Ryan Vienna, NA Session 291 (center), with his classmate, Ashraf Abdelmuti, NA Session 291, and the Exec. Director of the Los Angeles Co. Professional Peace Officers Association.

Congratulations to Los Angeles County Sheriff's Office Captain **Ryan A. Vienna, NA Session 291**, who was sworn in for his third term on the San Dimas City Council.



Capt. Ryan Vienna being sworn in as a San Dimas City Council member

Promotions



John M. Pinoli, NA Session 285

Congratulations to **John M. Pinoli, NA Session 285**, on his promotion to Assistant Commissioner of the California Highway Patrol (CHP). We wish him all the best.

Passings



Sandra Joy Williams, NA Session 173

It is with much sadness that we announce the passing of retired Santa Clara County deputy sheriff, **Sandra Joy Williams, NA Session 173**, who passed away in July of this year.

Eastern Pennsylvania Chapter News



Eastern PA chapter members at West Virginia Retrairer

Eastern PA chapter members were represented at the West Virginia Retrairer. As usual, West Virginia did not disappoint, and everyone had a great time.

Retirements



John Slavin, NA Session 279

Chief **John Slavin, NA Session 279**, retired from Cheltenham Township PD on July 31, 2026, after 37 years of service. Congrats, John, and good luck in your well-deserved retirement.

Passings



Scott Willoughby, NA Session 236

We regret to announce the passing of Captain **Scott Willoughby, NA Session 236**, on August 8, 2026. Scott began his career in law enforcement with the Marcus Hook Police Department before joining the Ridley Township Police Department in 1991, Badge #136, as a patrolman. During his 31 years of dedicated service, he served as a K-9 Officer alongside his beloved K-9 partner, Jogy, before advancing to Detective, Lieutenant, and ultimately Captain in 2015. He proudly held the position of Captain until his retirement in 2022. Please view his [obituary](#) for more information.

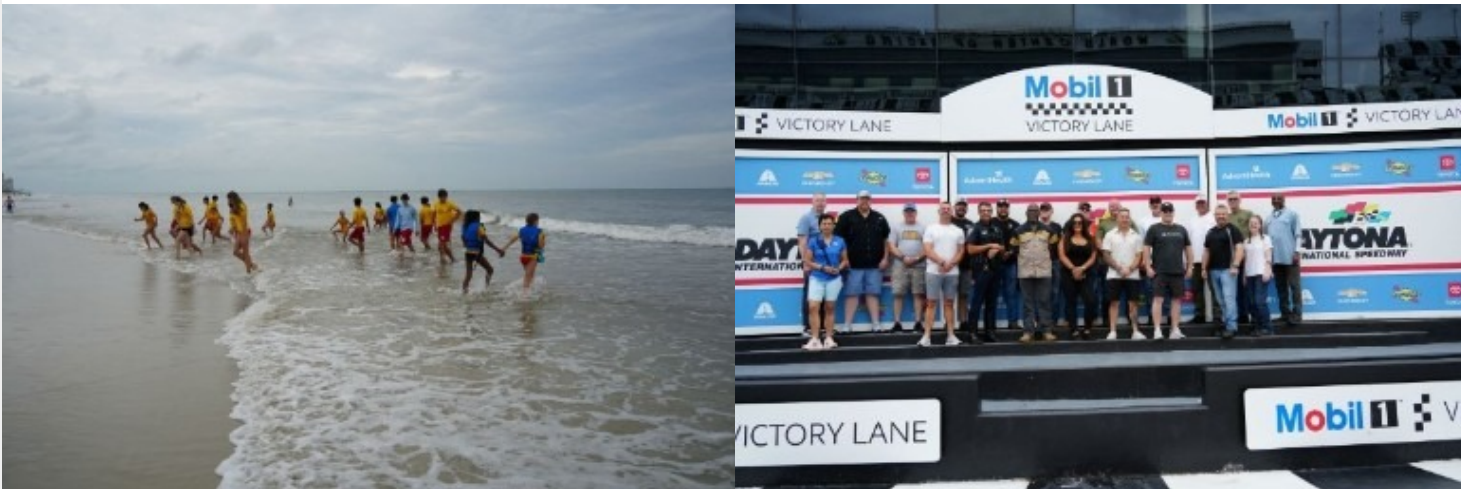
Florida Chapter News



Florida FBINAA: Miami Dolphins - Meet the Home Team

On August 10, 2026, Florida FBINAA members gathered at 347 Don Shula Parkway for an exclusive VIP experience at the Miami Dolphins Training Camp. Attendees enjoyed prime field-side seating with complimentary snacks and refreshments before taking a guided tour of the training facility and speaking directly with Dolphins staff.





The 2026 Florida FBINAA Annual Retraining Conference took place from August 1 to August 4, 2026, delivering world-class training, networking, and community for our membership. Special thanks to Volusia County Sheriff Mike Chitwood and his entire staff for their incredible local support. We also extend our deep gratitude to the leadership and dedicated personnel across our Florida FBI Field Offices for their unwavering assistance and best-in-class instruction. Due to overwhelming demand, the Florida FBINAA bought out the entire Hard Rock Hotel Daytona Beach for the exclusive use of our attendees. Beyond the core sessions, the agenda featured a diverse lineup of spouse and adult guest events, along with dedicated youth programs including Junior Lifeguard Training.

Promotions



Jose M. Vargas, NA Session 238

Assistant Chief **Jose M. Vargas, NA Session 238**, joined the City of South Miami with 28 years of law enforcement experience from the Miramar, Florida Police Department, where he retired as Interim Chief of Police. His leadership experience includes serving as Assistant Chief of Police, overseeing the Administrative and Patrol Divisions, and as Police Major of the Support Services Bureau, Criminal Investigations Bureau, and Strategic Investigations Unit. He also served as SWAT Commander and Executive Officer to the Chief of Police. Assistant Chief Vargas held several specialized assignments, including Internal Affairs, SWAT Sniper Team Leader, Traffic Homicide Investigator, and Motor Unit Officer.

Assistant Chief Vargas holds a Doctorate in Organizational Learning and Leadership from Barry University, a Master of Public Administration from Nova Southeastern University, and a Bachelor of Arts in Criminal Justice from Florida Atlantic University. He is a graduate of the 238th Session of the FBI National Academy and has completed several executive leadership programs, including the Command Officers Development Course at the Southern Police Institute, the FBI Law Enforcement Executive Development Seminar, and the Senior Executives in State and Local Government Program at the Harvard Kennedy School.



Gary Goble, NA Session 251

Gary Goble, NA Session 251, was officially appointed as Town Manager for the Town of Orange Park after serving as Interim Town Manager since May 30, following his 2024 retirement. He completed 35 years of service in law enforcement, which included nearly 13 years as Chief of the Orange Park Police Department.



Todd Hutchinson, NA Session 240

Todd Hutchinson, NA Session 240, has been selected as the Deputy Chief of Police for the Cocoa Beach Police Department. Todd has over 34 years of experience in law enforcement, serving in both Massachusetts and Florida.

Retirements



Mike Phillips, NA Session 272

Mike Phillips, NA Session 272, retired after over 37 years of dedicated public safety and law enforcement service, serving with the Leon County Sheriff's Office and the Florida Department of Law Enforcement, where he served as Special Agent in Charge of the Emergency Preparedness Division, Assistant Commissioner of the Strategic Justice Command, and Deputy Commissioner of the Public Safety Command.

Nebraska Chapter News

Passings



Gary R. Young Jr., NA Session 223

The Nebraska Chapter solemnly shares the unexpected passing of Crete, NE Police Chief **Gary R. Young Jr., NA Session 223**, on July 27, 2026.

While in Crete, he met the love of his life, Linda Paulsen. They were married on May 23, 1987. In their union, they had two children, Jessica and Daniel.

Gary worked his way through the ranks of the department for 41 years. He was promoted to Chief of Police in 2022. Gary loved his job and considered his police officers family. He was a very active member of many organizations like NeLEIN, PCAN, and POAN. He was also a proud graduating member of the FBI National Academy Session 223.

Gary enjoyed working at his other off-duty jobs doing security for the Lincoln Stars, Husker Tailgates, and Eagle Races, among others. He enjoyed being social and meeting people during these events. In his downtime, Gary could be found listening to heavy metal and wouldn't miss an episode of Jeopardy. He enjoyed making others laugh by sharing multiple memes on social media every day. Most of all, he loved spending time with his family, especially his grandkids.

Gary is survived by his parents, Gary and Sharon Young; his wife of 39 years, Linda Young; children Jessica (Ryan) Keller and Daniel (Bailey) Young; grandchildren Everett, Brigham, Ainslee, and Alanna.

Gary was an active and proud member of the Nebraska Chapter of FBINAA and never missed a fall re-trainer or spring luncheon. The Executive Board, on behalf of all Nebraska Chapter members, expresses our deepest condolences to Linda and family. Gary will be missed at our upcoming fall re-trainer.

The Executive Board would also like to thank the FBINAA Charitable Foundation for their generous donation to the Young family after Gary's unexpected passing.



Area law enforcement paying tribute to Chief Young at the services on August 3

New York/Eastern Canada Chapter News

Upcoming Events: Check out the events page on the Chapter website for details on the specific events.

Oct 1, 2026 - Rockland County Robinson Competitive HR 218 Shoot

Oct 10, 2026 - West Point Football Game



Chapter Leadership and other members in attendance at Expo Hall

The Chapter extends its sincere appreciation to Scott Fraser, Bill Leahy, and the entire 2026 NATC Planning Committee for delivering an incredibly successful conference.

From the golf outing and the Pipes and Drums Tattoo to an unforgettable evening at Gretzky's and the closing ceremonies, every event was filled with enthusiasm, camaraderie, and fellowship. Thanks to the extraordinary efforts of the Planning Committee, attendees left Niagara Falls with renewed friendships and an even stronger sense of connection—making the NAA stronger than ever.



National Academy Training Conference Golf Event

Congratulations to Frank and Leslie Pierri on being named recipients of the FBI National Academy Associates' Most Valuable Member Award!

Frank Pierri, NA Session 238, and Leslie have demonstrated an extraordinary commitment to our Chapter through many years of dedicated service. They have been the driving force behind the Chapter's highly successful annual West Point football event at the United States Military Academy. Through their efforts, the event has become a cherished tradition for our members and attracts National Academy graduates from across the country.

Their commitment has extended far beyond this event. Through their outreach and engagement efforts, Frank and Leslie helped reconnect numerous National Academy graduates whose memberships had lapsed, resulting in significant membership growth and a stronger Chapter.

Their leadership, generosity, and unwavering dedication embody the spirit of the FBINAA. Thank you, Frank and Leslie, for everything you have done—and continue to do—for our Chapter. Congratulations on this well-deserved recognition!

The Chapter also congratulates **Joe Gannon, NA Session 126**, on receiving this year's Lester A. "Les" Davis Presidential Award. Presented by the President of the FBINAA, the award recognizes an individual who has made outstanding contributions to the Association.

Joe was unable to attend this year's conference, and **Frank Smith, NA Session 157**, accepted the award on his behalf. During the presentation, Frank spoke about Joe's distinguished career and his longstanding passion and dedication to the FBINAA and the NYS/Eastern Canada Chapter.

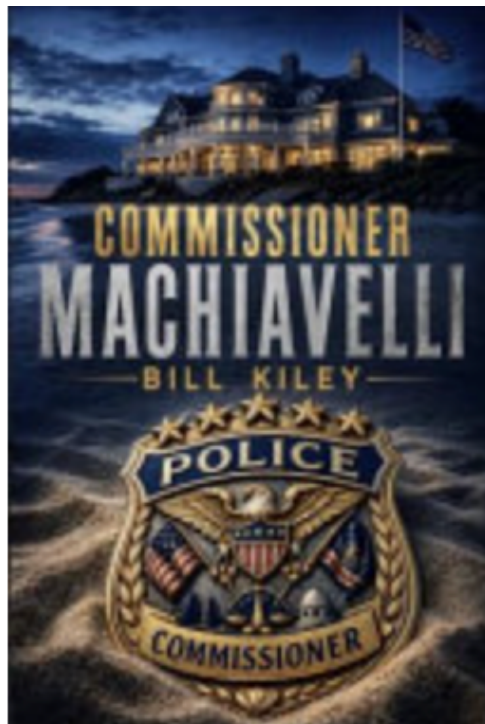
Congratulations, Joe, on this prestigious and well-deserved honor!



Saratoga Day at the Races

On July 17, the Chapter held its annual Saratoga Day at the Races. Attendees enjoyed beautiful weather and exciting racing action, but the true highlight was the opportunity to spend the day with fellow Chapter members.

If you have never attended this event, be sure to watch for future announcements—you will not regret joining us!



Commissioner Machiavelli

And to anyone looking for a good read, consider grabbing a copy of **Bill Kiley's, NA Session 146**, newly released novel, *Commissioner Machiavelli*. A gripping political crime drama about institutional corruption, hidden influence, moral compromise, and the dangerous cost of loyalty, *Commissioner Machiavelli* is for readers who enjoy layered suspense, police fiction, political intrigue, conspiracy thrillers, and stories where every favor has a price. This is Bill's first novel and third published book.

Oregon Chapter News



On August 6, 2026, the Oregon Chapter hosted its annual Summer Picnic (Pig Out) at Memorial Park in Wilsonville. The event was attended by several members (both active and retired), future law enforcement professionals scheduled to go to the National Academy, and spouses. The event had great food, networking, and just a great overall atmosphere! Retired Tigard Deputy Chief **Jim deSully, NA Session 235**, won our Glock Raffle! Please visit the Oregon Chapter [website](#) for up-to-date information on our chapter!



2026 FBI Portland Teen Academy

Starting on July 13, 2026, 40 Oregon Teenagers started the Portland Field Office's Teen Academy. The FBI's Teen Academy program in Portland allows high school students the opportunity to develop leadership skills and to investigate the world of law enforcement. Active explorations of fitness and forensic science grow students' minds and bodies while age-appropriate lessons on topics such as violence prevention, sextortion, and hoax threats teach them how to stay safe. FBI staff, including special agents, intelligence analysts, and professional staff, lead discussions and interactive sessions focused on the work we do, how we do it, and, most importantly, why we choose this work in service of all Americans. St. Helens Police Sergeant **Jose Castilleja, NA Session 294**, spoke to the students on the importance of relationships between the FBI and local law enforcement. The class of 40 graduated on July 17, 2026!



Chief Art Knori accepting Resolution of Appreciation awarded by National



Deputy Chief Gayle Easterday accepting Resolution of Appreciation awarded by National

The Oregon Chapter had two members who surpassed their 50th year of being in the FBINAA in 2026. Retired Milwaukie Deputy Chief **Gayle Easterday, NA Session 103**, and graduating on December 11, 1975, became a 50-year member in January 2026. Deputy Chief Gayle Easterday was recognized for this great achievement in the April 2026 Edition of Chapter Chat. On August 14, 2026, retired Marion County Undersheriff and Oregon Chapter Secretary Treasurer **Greg Olson, NA Session 174**, presented Deputy Chief Easterday with a Resolution of Appreciation from the FBI National Academy Associates, Inc. Our second member who surpassed their 50th year in the FBINAA is retired Gresham Police Chief **Arthur Knori, NA Session 106**, who graduated on September 23, 1976. Undersheriff Olson also presented Chief Knori with a Resolution of Appreciation from the FBI National Academy Associates, Inc. Both members were very flattered and gracious to receive the recognition from Nationals! Deputy Chief Easterday and Chief Knori's dedication to the FBINAA is what sets the foundation for a strong organization. The Oregon Chapter is fortunate to have both as members. Congratulations to both of you for reaching this impressive milestone!



Chief Ron Noble and Family



Ron Noble's Harley

This month's "Where Are They Now?" feature highlights retired McMinnville Police Chief **Ron Noble, NA Session 246**. While Ron retired from law enforcement more than a decade ago, retirement has hardly meant stepping away from public service. His career has continued through state government, ministry, public safety chaplaincy, and service to several McMinnville-area nonprofit organizations.

From Oregon Roots to Law Enforcement: Ron was born in Lynwood, California, and moved with his family to Dallas, Oregon, as a teenager in 1974. He graduated from Dallas High School in 1978 and attended Oregon State University (Go Beavers!), where he studied Electrical Engineering and Computer Science. During college, Ron took a year off to work for the Oregon Department of Transportation. As a member of a survey crew, he worked during the construction of I-205 and the Marion Street and Center Street bridges in Salem. Ron met his wife, Sue, while they were in high school. He later followed her to Seattle Pacific University, where he studied Physiology and Pre-Med. Ron and Sue were married in 1983 and began raising their family. Ron subsequently managed fast-food restaurants in Tacoma, Washington, and Salem, Oregon, before beginning what would become a 28-year career in law enforcement.

A Career in Law Enforcement: Ron began his law enforcement career as a Benton County Reserve Deputy, serving from 1986 to 1988. In 1988, he was hired by the Corvallis Police Department, where he advanced through the ranks from Officer to Sergeant and ultimately Lieutenant. During his patrol years, Ron served as a bike officer, traffic officer, and field training officer. He also supervised the team responsible for implementing community policing. As a lieutenant, Ron oversaw department training, served as the department's accreditation manager, and became an assessor for the Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies (CALEA). He also served as the department's Public Information Officer.

That role placed him in the middle of one of Oregon's most closely followed criminal investigations. In May 2004, Ron was involved in the Corvallis Police Department's response to the disappearance of Oregon State University

student Brooke Wilberger, a case that ultimately received national attention. In 2006, Ron was selected to lead the McMinnville Police Department as Chief of Police. He served as chief until his retirement in June 2014. During his tenure in McMinnville, Ron oversaw the design and construction of a new police department facility and worked to rebuild morale within the organization, providing employees with opportunities to develop professionally and advance their careers while serving the community. In addition to his responsibilities as chief, Ron became active in statewide law enforcement leadership and served as President of the Oregon Association of Chiefs of Police. His leadership at the local and state levels complemented the training and perspective he gained as a graduate of the FBI National Academy. As McMinnville's chief, Ron attended the 246th Session of the FBI National Academy, graduating in September 2011.

Public Service After Law Enforcement: Following his retirement from the McMinnville Police Department, Ron became Director of Public Safety for Linfield College (Go Wildcats!). His commitment to public service soon took him into a new arena. In 2016, Ron was elected to the Oregon House of Representatives from the 24th District, representing portions of Yamhill and Washington Counties. He served in the Oregon Legislature through January 2023, bringing his law enforcement and public safety experience to state government. His service to McMinnville also continued beyond elected office. In 2024, Ron was recognized with the Distinguished Service for Economic Vitality Award for his leadership in helping secure funding for McMinnville's Business Recovery and Resiliency Plan following the COVID-19 pandemic.

A New Chapter of Service: Today, Ron serves as pastor of McMinnville Praise Church. His commitment to those who serve the public has also continued through Public Safety Chaplaincy, where he is involved in ministry to first responders, including law enforcement, fire, EMS, and 911 personnel. Ron continues to serve the McMinnville community through several nonprofit organizations. He is a board member of the See Ya Later Foundation, a McMinnville-based organization that provides youth opportunities, scholarships, and assistance to families facing serious medical challenges. He also serves on the board of MV Advancements, a McMinnville nonprofit that provides services and opportunities for adults with disabilities. These roles reflect a common thread throughout Ron's career: a desire to serve people and help strengthen the community.

Family, Faith, and a Harley: Ron and Sue have been married for 43 years. Together they have five children and 13 grandchildren. In 2018, Ron and Sue felt called to adoption, and in 2019 they gained custody of their fifth child through foster care when he was eight years old. He is now 15 and thriving in all aspects of his life. When he isn't working at the church or serving in the community, Ron enjoys spending time with his family, fishing, and riding his Harley-Davidson. The motorcycle has a special connection to the National Academy. Ron purchased his Harley in Orange, Virginia, while attending the FBI National Academy—making it a lasting reminder of his time at Quantico and the friendships and experiences that came from Session 246. Ron and Sue live on 6½ acres outside Carlton, Oregon, where they enjoy their beautiful hobby farm and, especially, time with their children and grandchildren.

Still Serving: After a career devoted to public service, Ron Noble hasn't really retired—he has simply changed uniforms. From police officer to police chief, from the National Academy to the Oregon Legislature, and now from pastor to public safety chaplain and community volunteer, Ron continues to find ways to serve others.

The Oregon Chapter is pleased to see that he continues to serve his community—and that, after all these years, he is still enjoying his Harley!



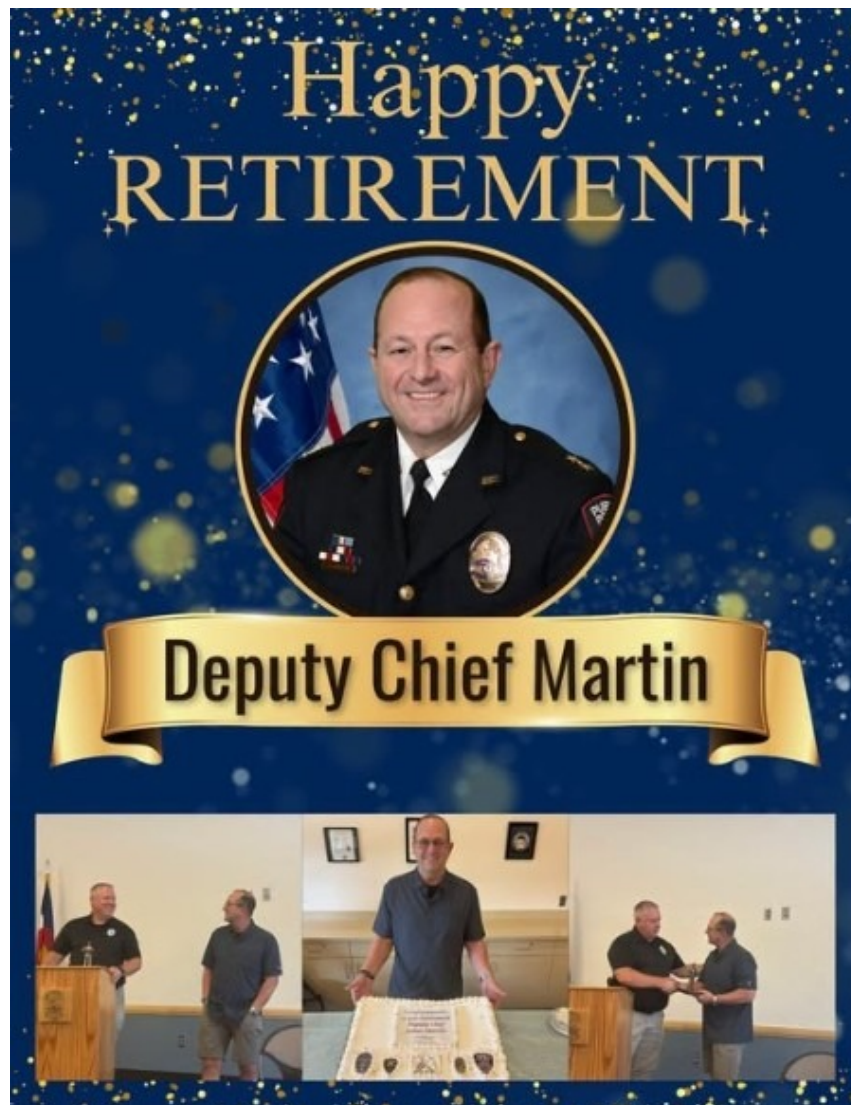
FBI Administrative Specialist Amanda Johnson and family

The Oregon Chapter would like to recognize FBI Administrative Specialist Amanda Johnson, who is assigned to training and the National Academy out of the Portland FBI Office. Amanda was born in Billings, Montana, and grew up in Missoula, graduating from Sentinel High School. After attending the University of Montana, she started with the FBI in April 2015 out of the Salt Lake City Office. She transferred to the Portland Office in December 2019 and was assigned to training and the National Academy, which also encompasses the Oregon Chapter. She also served as the Executive Assistant to now-retired Portland SAC Kiernan Ramsey while still maintaining her duties in the training division. When Amanda isn't working, she is busy raising her twin sons and daughter with her husband, Jafet. She and Jafet also recently opened a restaurant in the Richland, Washington, area.

We are very lucky to have Amanda assigned to the National Academy out of the Portland Office! Along with her duties with training and the National Academy, she takes great care of us in the Oregon Chapter! Thank you!

Rocky Mountain Chapter News

Retirements



Jim Martin, NA Session 283

Congratulations, **Jim Martin, NA Session 283**, on your well-deserved retirement from the Pueblo Police Department. Jim is the current 1st Vice President of the Rocky Mountain Chapter. We look forward to seeing what adventures come next for Jim. Best wishes and thank you for your service!



Barry Bratt, NA Session 263

Congratulations to **Barry Bratt, NA Session 263**, on your well-deserved retirement from the Colorado State Patrol! Barry is a Past President of our Chapter, serves on the Colorado Law Enforcement Memorial Board, and is the Section I Director on the FBINAA Charitable Foundation Board. Best wishes on your next adventure.

Texas Chapter News



Don Atkins and the Hog Slayer Society Silhouette



The Model 89 by Big Horn Armory

It started with a boast and ended with the recent harvest of a wild Texas feral hog. In May 2025, **Duke (Don) Atkins** – a 34-year veteran of the Houston Police Department, retired lieutenant, and proud graduate of **NA Session 226** – visited Big Horn Armory in Cody, Wyoming, while on vacation. After handling the armory's proprietary Model 89 rifle, Don confidently declared that it ought to be able to bring down a hog. Greg Buchel, president of Big Horn Armory, accepted the challenge and later sent Don a Model 89 Black Thunder chambered in .500 S&W Magnum, asking only for a fair hunt and photographic proof of harvest.

Don was the ideal man for the assignment. He founded the FBI NA226 Hog Slayer Society, an annual reunion that brings law enforcement veterans from across the country together to hunt near Houston. What began in 2008 with five friends has grown into a 19-year tradition involving roughly 25 hunters and a steak luncheon that serves as many as 80 guests. Despite the millions of feral hogs in Texas, Don's local targets had become clever, nocturnal, and apparently unwilling to cooperate with marketing deadlines. After spending more than 100 hours stalking his prey, he finally spotted one beneath a rising full moon, settled the red dot, and the rest is history.

A few nights later, Don's friend Steve Benson – a retired Uwchlan Township, PA, detective sergeant and fellow graduate of the 226th Session – borrowed the rifle and added another hog to the freezer. Don's verdict was unequivocal: There should be no doubt that Big Horn Armory's Model 89 can harvest any hog placed in front of it. The good-spirited challenge pitting a proud NA grad and founder of the nationwide Hog Slayer Society against the craftsmen at Big Horn Armory had been answered - loudly and successfully.



Pictured from the left: Steve Benson and Don Atkins

Retirements



M.P. Jackson, NA Session 227

Please join the Pasadena (TX) Police Department in recognizing Chief **M. P. Jackson, NA Session 227**, who retired on September 1, 2026. His retirement will mark the conclusion of a career spanning nearly five decades of continuous service as a Texas peace officer. An active member of numerous local, state, and national law enforcement associations, Chief Jackson leaves behind a legacy defined by service, integrity, leadership, and unwavering dedication to his officers and the communities he served.

Throughout his career, Chief Jackson's vision and leadership strengthened officer safety, expanded investigative capabilities, enhanced departmental readiness, and positioned the department to meet the community's evolving needs. His service was recognized with numerous honors, including the Excellence in Leadership Award, the Community Builder Award, and multiple Chief's Citations for his role in resolving high-profile investigations. His influence extended well beyond the department through service on more than a dozen boards and advisory councils, including the FBI Regional Computer Forensics Laboratory, the San Jacinto College Criminal Justice Advisory Board, and the Harris County Children's Assessment Center. His contributions to law enforcement, education, civic service, and emergency response will leave a lasting impact throughout the region.

Although retiring from active service, Chief Jackson plans to remain involved with the Texas Chapter of the FBI National Academy Associates, continuing the professional relationships and commitment to law enforcement that have distinguished his remarkable career. We congratulate Chief Jackson on an extraordinary career and wish him continued success as he begins this well-earned next chapter in his life.

Want to share updates from your Chapter?
Submit chapter news on the [Chapter Chat Submission Form](#) by the 25th of every

month to be in the next edition.

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FBI Academy, Quantico, Virginia 22135