



DON BLAKE

FOUNDER & PRESIDENT OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS REPRESENTING ACTIVE, RETIRED, AND THOSE MEMBERS WHO HAVE PASSED ON.

As a 22-year veteran of the department, Don witnessed 30 fellow officers killed-in-the-line-of-duty during his watch. Nine years later he lost a close friend and colleague, Hank Daly, in one of the most heinous police killings ever witnessed in Washington, D.C. A strong advocate of honoring those who gave their all, Don believes the department is obligated to do a better job to honor those who laid down

their lives. He is also a strong advocate of history and believes the police department of the Nation's Capital is long overdue from establishing and maintaining a police museum. The department is rich with amazing police history tracing its roots back to 1791 when Washington, D.C. was founded and to 1861 when President Abraham Lincoln ordered the creation of the Washington, D.C. Metropolitan Police Department. In 2010 Don sought and received permission from Chief of Police Kathy Lainer to raise funds to build and maintain the Police Memorial and Museum to better educate the public of its lengthy and captivating history.

Don was born and raised in Southeast Washington, D.C., and is a product of Anacostia High School, graduating in 1960. After serving three years in the U.S. Army as a member of the elite 529th Military Police USAREUR Honor Guard, Don fulfilled his childhood dream and became a Metropolitan Police Officer in 1964. Like others, he began his career walking a beat, but soon moved into the field of criminal investigations, spending most of his career as a detective and sergeant specializing in the investigation of armed robberies, kidnappings, extortions and threats against government officials. He was promoted to Lieutenant specializing in threats to the District of Columbia, helped to reestablish the department's Intelligence Division and was instrumental in forming the first MPD/FBI joint terrorism task force during a period of time when terrorism in the U.S. was in its infant stages as witnessed by the bombing of the US Capitol.

He retired 1985 and began a second career as a Security Specialist, eventually joining the Bureau of Diplomatic Security at the State Department. His first assignment was coordinating security operations during the renovation of the historic Blair House. He eventually became the Director of Security for Domestic Operations. He is credited with pioneering the first domestic Uniformed Security Program and modernizing physical security programs and technologies at over 125 facilities throughout the United States. Following the tragic events of September 11, 2001, Don was again challenged and successfully developed and staffed a new Emergency Preparedness program as its Director.

After 48-years of law enforcement and security services, Don retired on June 31, 2008. While with the police department Don received over 100 commendations to include five official commendations from the Chief of Police, the District of Columbia Award for Meritorious Services and the Silver Medal of Valor. During his career with the State Department he received numerous awards from the Secretary of State and other dignitaries, both foreign and domestic. He was awarded the Diplomatic Security Civil Service Employee of the Year and several meritorious commendations. He has published a book of his career with the Metropolitan Police Department and is working on a book about his career with the State Department. He is the Treasurer of the Dollard-Suter Family Fund established to help retired D.C. Police Officers in need. He is a life-time member of the Association of Retired Police of D.C., the Fraternal Order of Police and the American Legion. He is a graduate of the FBI National Academy and former President of the FBI National Academy Associates. He is married and is the proud father of two grown daughters, a son-in-law and two grandchildren.