April 2018

Volume 7 Issue 4

The "CAT"

In This Issue:

The Editors and NCW Chairman devote the entire April CAT to our fallen hero, Sergeant Sean M. Gannon.

The articles and photos in this issue are excerpts taken from: The Cape Cod Times, The Boston Herald, The Boston Globe, Steven G. Xiarhos, Deputy Chief of Police and YPD Facebook.

Upcoming Events

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"MAKE YARMOUTH THE SAFEST COMMUNITY IN THE REGION"

Chief Frank Frederickson

YARMOUTH POLICE SERGEANT SEAN M. GANNON (1985 - 2018)

K-9 Officer Sean McNamee Gannon, Yarmouth PD, age 32, died on impact in the line of duty from a gunshot wound to the head on April 12th, 2018. Born August 22, 1985 in New Bedford, MA, he graduated from All Saints Elementary School in 1999, and Bishop Stang High School in 2003. Gannon graduated with honors from Westfield State University in 2007 with a Bachelor of Science in Criminal Justice, a Master's with honors from Massachusetts Maritime Academy with a degree in Emergency Management in 2011, and the MBTA Municipal Police Academy. Gannon's internships included Nantucket Police, Westfield Police, and earned certifications as an EMT and Life Saving Instructor. Gannon started his career at Stonehill College in 2007 as a member of the Campus Police before joining the Yarmouth Police Department in 2010. Gannon was part of the Emergency Management Unit, a part-time member of the Proactive Anti-Crime Team, and he was the first K-9 narcotics officer for YPD. After retiring the K-9 narcotics officer, Gannon acquired the patrol dog who was also injured at the scene of the crime.

Sean leaves a legacy of high moral integrity, infectious humor, and collaborative work with colleagues. He enjoyed travel, working with his hands, donating his time to Big Brother/Big Sister and being outside. He loved spending time with his family and friends. Sean was deeply intuitive and inspired others to be their best selves. Sean leaves his wife, Dara (Bryan), his parents, Patrick and Denise, his siblings, Timothy and his fiance Mary, Martha and her husband Derrick, his in-laws Kathy and Dean Bryan, and their son Ross, along with many relatives and friends. Whatever Sean did, he gave 100% of himself. He will be profoundly missed by his family, colleagues, and friends. K-9 Officer Sean M. Gannon was promoted posthumously to sergeant.

The family deeply appreciates the incredible outpouring of local and national messages of support and condolences. The family particularly wishes to recognize the outstanding presence of the Yarmouth Police Department during this difficult ordeal. In lieu of flowers, please make a donation to Yarmouth Police Foundation or The Cape Cod Foundation. To leave an online condolence, please visit www.doanebealames.com.

Officer Gannon's Candlelight Vigil

On Thursday, April 12th a coward took the life of one of our Police Officers.

The attack stunned us and brought us to our knees…

We would like all of our supporters to know that we are resilient, and we stand strong, proud, and committed and nothing will ever keep us down or stop us from serving and protecting the people of our community…and each other.

The name of person who attacked our beloved Police Officer Sean Gannon, and our innocent Police Dog K9 Nero, will never be uttered in our building or in any of our Media Releases or Facebook Posts. We will only refer to him as 125…which stands for the number of prior criminal charges he has on his Board of Probation Criminal Record in Massachusetts.

The Massachusetts Criminal Justice System has let us down and failed to protect our community and our Yarmouth Police Department. Our organization is pushing forward as we have broken families to support—a community who loves us—and coward known as 125 behind bars who has earned the death penalty.

The men and women of the Yarmouth Police Department remain steadfast to our commitment to excellence in policing. A Candlelight Vigil was held on the grounds of Yarmouth Police Department Headquarters-the home of Yarmouth Police Officer Sean M. Gannon and K9 Nero-on Saturday, April 14th and was attended by hundreds of police officers, fire fighters and citizens from around the New England.

The K9 Community Is In Mourning

Handlers, with their dogs always at their sides, took a moment to pray and reflect on the death of Yarmouth Police Officer Sean Gannon and the gunshot wound to his Belgian Malinois, Nero. The officers say the bond between a cop and his dog lasts a lifetime. To lose a member of their fraternity, they told the Boston Herald, hits them all.

"My heart goes out to officer Gannon's family and friends," said Boston police officer Cornell Paterson, who spoke right after patrolling the marathon finish line with this Belgian Malinois, Loki. "My dog does whatever it takes to keep me safe. We fight together."

The officer and dog were both shot, police said, by 125 and Gannon died from his injuries. Nero "survived emergency surgery," the Yarmouth Police Department reported and is being cared for on the Cape after being shot in the face and neck. A fellow officer who was Nero's handler when he was a puppy lured the dog away from his fallen master right after the shooting, members of the K9 community said, in what may have saved it's life. "It's rare that a dog will leave an officer's side. They work together and sometimes, die together. It's an inseparable bond," said the president of the Massachusetts Police Work Dog Association, "You always have a partner that is there for you and you can trust… They have a brain. They have instinct."

Our Four Legged Hero!

The men and women of the Yarmouth Police Department are proud to report that our beloved K9 NERO is back on his feet---FIGHTING back and standing STRONG!

A Sea of Support

Police fill street, community members line procession route to pay respects to fallen Officer Sean Gannon

The death of one man weighed heavy on the hearts of hundreds Tuesday, as mourners lined the streets to remember Yarmouth Police K-9 Officer Sean Gannon.

In the days since his death, the community has been grieving, holding vigils and raising money to help the family he has left behind. Charlie Clark, of South Yarmouth, organized one of the vigils and was one of the first members of the public to arrive outside the church to remember Gannon. Clark, a photographer, had taken photos of Gannon during his K-9 demonstrations with Thor, the police dog he had before Nero, who also was shot Thursday and is recovering at a Buzzards Bay Veterinary Hospital. “He made the demonstrations fun,” Clark said. “He wanted to make this town better and safe,”

Former Hyannis Fire Commissioner Richard Gallagher said, “Every day as commissioner, I understood that as the apparatus goes out the door, or as a police officer goes out the door, it could be their last call. It always hits hard when it hits home.”

The procession of the family and police officers from Yarmouth and other local departments began at about 3 p.m. The sight of the community — people from all walks of life— waving American flags and wearing blue and black ribbons was uplifting, Yarmouth Police Chief Frank Frederickson said. “As I’m riding in that car and I see all those types of people it just solidifies the fact that they care for us, they really do, and I believe that’s the majority of people,” he said. “It felt good. It solidified the fact that I have to keep working for them, our officers have to keep working for them, and we are going to keep doing that.” The sheer number of people, plus the hundreds of police officers who came from across the state and region, showed the effect Gannon had on people, Frederickson said.

The colors blue and black were everywhere, with ribbons tied to trees along the road, dogs wearing blue collars and blue bows on the door of the church. The largest show of support came from the law enforcement community. More than 1,000 officers from police departments and other agencies marched in rows of four down Station Avenue from Dennis-Yarmouth Regional High School to the church.

The officers in uniform flooded the street, with the Boston Police Gaelic Column of Pipes and Drums leading the way. Local departments were among the first to enter the church, but officers from Rhode Island, New Hampshire and even a Royal Canadian Mounted Police Officer, in full red regalia, were there to honor Gannon. The line of blue stretched so far that by 5:45 p.m., at least one formation of officers had yet to leave the school two blocks away as others were already returning.

Gov. Charlie Baker, Lt. Gov. Karyn Polito, State Attorney General Maura Healey and Boston Police Commissioner William Evans also came to the Cape to offer their condolences. By 8 p.m., people were still streaming into the church to pay their respects.

Gannon represented the best of his profession, according to people who knew him.

Funeral Services for Police Sergeant Sean M. Gannon

A seemingly endless parade of police officers from across Massachusetts walked solemnly through this Cape Cod town on Wednesday, coming to a halt outside the Catholic Church where a Funeral Mass was being said for Yarmouth Police Sergeant Sean M. Gannon.

During the service at the St. Pius X Church, Rev. Paul Caron spoke about the 32-year-old Gannon who worked as a Yarmouth Police Officer for the past 8 years, but was known to the pastor of the church through their faith.

Caron addressed a church filled with Gannon's immediate family, friends and fellow police officers wearing dress uniforms, their badges crossed with a dark band symbolizing a law enforcement line of duty death. Gannon is the 38th law enforcement officer to die on duty this year, according to the National Law Enforcement Memorial.

Caron noted that for Christians the holy season of Easter is "a time of hope and time of joy — Sean was both of these things.''

As the street in front of the church filled with rows upon rows of uniformed police officers, Ann Bertolino stood on the tips of toes, hoping to see over their heads and get a glimpse of the fallen officer's family as they entered the church.

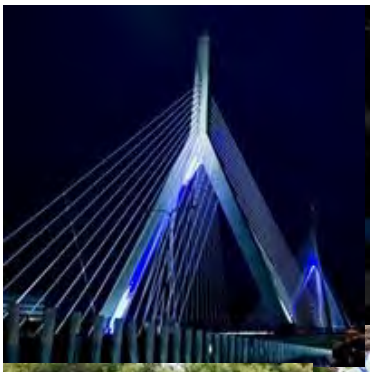
Services for Gannon were held at the same church where a wake and the traditional law enforcement walk-by were held Tuesday evening, a public mourning attended by thousands of police and Cape Cod residents.

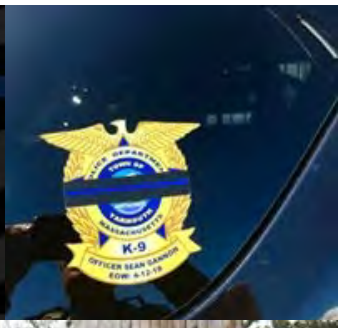
But among friends and relatives gathered at the church on Wednesday, the details of Gannon's death were not being discussed. Instead, the focus was on how the New Bedford native lived.

Gannon had participated in the Big Brothers/Big Sisters of Cape Cod and Islands for three years, is remembered as a big supporter who encouraged fellow officers to join the program. Gannon's death was especially felt by his "little brother" in the program, who aspired to become a police officer. In the day since his passing, Yarmouth Police Officers have stepped in as surrogates.

Police from all over the country lined the street outside the church. Several K-9 units also stood at attention before the funeral on behalf of Gannon's canine partner, Nero, who was also wounded but is recovering after emergency surgery.

Gannon was posthumously promoted to the rank of sergeant by his department Wednesday. Gannon worked eight years with the Yarmouth police following three years with the Stonehill College Campus Police.





When I find myself in times of trouble
Mother Mary comes to me
Speaking words of wisdom
Let it be

And in my hour of darkness
She is standing right in front of me
Speaking words of wisdom
Let it be

Let it be, let it be, let it be, let it be
Whisper words of wisdom
Let it be

SAVE THE DATE

Upcoming Events

Event	Location	Date	Time
The Bluecoats Are Coming	The Loft	April 28, 20`8	7:00 PM
Block Captains Meeting	Yarmouth Senior Center	May 2, 2018	6:30 PM
Yarmouth Town Meeting	Mattacheese Middle School	May 5, 2018	TBD
NCW Meeting	YPD	May 9, 2018	10:00 AM

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SHARE THE CAT

Block captains are requested to ensure that their members get a copy of the CAT. You can email them a copy or sign them up for a subscription. Block captains will get a copy automatically and do not need to subscribe.

The CAT is a newsletter from the Yarmouth Police Community Advisory Team (YPCAT) relating to happenings in the Neighborhood Crime Watch Program and the community.

Do you have an article you would like to see published in the CAT, or an idea for us to include? If so, contact us at cat@yncw.org.

Interested in learning more about, or joining Yarmouth Neighborhood Crime Watch—Visit our web site www.yncw.org . Here you can find out if you are in a current block, and learn more about the program and how to start your own block. You can also contact us at info@yncw.org.