

## Off The Cuff Of...Chief Steve Springer

This issue of the CUFF Newsletter finds that change within the police department is continuing. Only this time the change brings an end to an era in the history of both the police department and the city. This event was the retirement of Lieutenant Richard K. Allan in January 2001. The city was chartered in 1969 with the police department becoming operational on January 1, 1971 wherein seven people were sworn in as the first police officers of the Fairview Heights Police Department. During their tenure, those officers helped establish the fundamental qualities and professionalism that has become the trademark of the Fairview Heights Police Department. Those original seven police officers were:

Richard Allan  
Kermit Cox  
Dale Fredeking  
Michael King  
John Oliver  
Edward Pitra  
Gary Reimann

Kermit Cox and John Oliver were with the police department only a short period of time. However, the other five officers each provided over 26 years of dedicated service to the police department and this community prior to their retirements. Edward Pitra served over 26 years, attained the rank of sergeant, and retired in June 1997. Gary Reimann served over 27 years, attained the rank of sergeant, and retired in June 1998. Michael King served over 27 years, attained the rank of captain, and retired in July 1998 to take the position of chief of police for the city of Highland. Dale Fredeking served for 28 years, attained the rank of captain, and retired in January 1999 to take the position of chief of police with the city of Arnold, Missouri.

Lastly, Richard Allan retired in January 2001 after providing 30 years of faithful service to the police department to take a position as the D.U.I. Coordinator for S.I.L.E.C. (Southwestern Illinois Law Enforcement Commission). Lt. Allan was not just one of the original seven police officers, he was the **first** police officer to be sworn in as a Fairview Heights police officer. Thus, Lt. Allan was the most senior law enforcement officer on the Fairview Heights Police Department from January 1971 until his retirement. During his career, Lt. Allan served as a patrol officer, a detective, a sergeant, and a lieutenant. Lt. Allan was highly regarded throughout the police department and city hall and was known for his sense of duty, professionalism, humor, and personable disposition. As a result of Lt. Allan's retirement, Sergeant Gary Lightfoot has been promoted to the rank of lieutenant; and a new sergeant will be appointed once promotional testing has been completed.

In conclusion, I would like to say that Lt. Allan will be truly missed, and we wish him the very best in his new job. Further, I should stress that while the "original seven" helped establish the fundamental qualities and traits expected of Fairview Heights police officers, the "new" generation of Fairview Heights police officers are striving not only to meet those standards and characteristics but to enhance and expand them.

STEPHEN M. SPRINGER

Chief of Police