

SPA Web Administrator

From:
To:
Sent: Friday, September 10, 2004 2:41 PM
Subject: Found more pictures in the garage to #38

Jim this is how it all started (the day was Memorial Day the year 1970)

Picture 8x10

#1 Memorial Day 1970 L to R Mike Moon Eddie Melfi Brain Fitzpatrick and Tom McGuiness

#1-a #2 & 3 Memorial Day 1970 Down Grove Street St. Johns Church and Central Fire House in the background

3 A #3 Raising the Flag at Vets. Park in front of the Old Town Hall Main and Atlantic Streets L to R John Forlivio Walter Barrett and Brian Fitzpatrick

#4 1971 Standing in Vets park Main and Atlantic Streets Just prior to the Flag raising Holding the American Flag in front Bill Finn Left to Right ... Joe Slesh, Brian Fitzpatrick, Lou Fiallaci, Skip Passaro (Chief) , Al Mackey, Rich Moavero, Eddie Melfi

#5-6-7 -7a-7b-7c-7d)1971 Marching from 805 Bedford Street to Vets Park Atlantic Street Both Flag Raising Unit and Firing Squad Jim Byrne gave commands for the firing Squad ... This was done on every Memorial and Veterans Day ... After the ceremony was complete The Two units would march back to 805 Bedford Street ... In front Bill Finn w/ the Folded American flag to be raised at the Park and the Honor Guard followed Paul Tantimonico, Art Bertana, John Forlivio, Walter Barrett, Jim Byrne, Rich Moavero, Joe Slesh, Ernie Orgera, Tom Angelo, Bob Glander...

#8 Bill Finn waiting for the ceremony to begin for the Flag Raising

#9 -9a Art Bertana, Bill Finn (w/flag) Paul Tantimonico and John Forlivio... March up to the Main flag pole in Central Park Atlantic and Main Streets (9a) Flag being raised

#11 Jim Byrne in Charge of the firing squad inspects prior to firing the shotguns which were used at the time for Gun Salute

#12 Firing squad waiting for the commands from Jim Byrne

#13 Jim Byrne gave the command to fire

#14 Present arms was given after the 3rd rounds were fired ...In the rear of the formation

stands with a salute Henry Fields, Joe Ligi and Eddie Melfi

#15 & 16 Firing Squad still standing at present arms as the National Anthem is being played ...

#17 Prior to the beginning of the parade Jim Byrne fix's Tom Angelo's Hat ...

#18a Skip Passaro and Julian Clark (FBI agent) look at some of the units waiting to start the parade

#18

1972 Ceremony at Ladders Terrace for the Mayor and Governor ... The Honor Guard performed a drill and into the formation for the presentation of the American Flag into the National Anthem ...

#19A

1974 Leading Off the parade with Police cars in front

#19

1974 Marching down Summer Street in a V formation with rifles ... Eddie Melfi followed by the American flag section and the rifle squad who also performed during the line of march (rifle routine)

#20

During the line of march Bob Glander smiles for the Camera (a no no) But that was our Bob ...

#21

Rifle squad getting ready for the drill ...Performing for the crowd on Broad Street

#22

Standing at attention for preparation to fire a volley of 3 rounds for the salute...

#23a

Firing the salute

#23b

Present arms is given in the back rendering a hand salute is John Perrotta, Joe Ligi and Henry fields ...

#23c

Rifles render a present arms

#24

1976 Leading the Veterans Parade a (wind mill) is performed L to R Bob Fallacci, Jim Byrne, Al Mackey, Vinny Sharkey, John Forlivio Rich Crutchley, Joe Slesh, Bob Glander, Walt Barrett and in the middle carrying the A/flag John Perrotta ...

#25

Flag Day May 1973 Holy Sprit Catholic Church on Scofield town Rd. Honor Guard was asked to raise the flag for the children of that school...

In the V formation leading and holding the flag is Jim Byrne, 1st two are Joe Slesh and John Forlivio behind them are Pete Coviello and Tom Angelo ... All are marching to the flag pole to raise the flag ...

#26

Hooking the flag up to raise the American Flag to the top of the flag pole in the foreground and standing at attention is Ernie Orgera

#27

Unfurling the flag and waiting for the National Anthem to be played

#28

The National Anthem began and the Honor Guard began to raise the American Flag ...

#29

The American Flag is being raised by Joe Slesh while the other members render a hand salute ...

#30

The American Flag reaches the top of the flag pole and all of the members render a hand salute Eddie Melfi and Mike Docimo in the foreground also render a Salute ...

#31

Even one of the Depts' captains was on hand for the ceremony and saluted during the flag raising (not a member of the Honor Guard) Capt. Kilmartin ...

#32

After the Flag raising Mike Docimo, Eddie Melfi, Jim Byrne (holding the American flag) and Ernie Orgera standing behind stacked rifles ... The Members of the Honor Guard are preparing to hand over a new American Flag to the school which was donated by the Dept. and that this flag was a special flag which was flown over the United States Capitol Washington, DC Just for The Holy Spirit Catholic School ...

#33

During the end of the presentation of the New American Flag (which did fly over the capitol of the US Washington, DC) Members of the Honor Guard put on a drill exhibition for the Children of Holy Sprit and a rifle throe was a part of the drill ... The exchange of rifles being

done by Ernie Orgera and Pete Coviello with Jim Byrne tossing another rifle into the air ...
Looking on is Eddie Melfi ...

#34

Another Vets day parade and carrying the American Flag and the City white flag

#35

A 21 count Company Front then forward in that front 36 counts and back into the V formation ... The only command was Mark Time M March and the rest was a silent count by all ...

#36

Chuck Walkley (carrying the American Flag) and Eddie Melfi as a guard carrying a saber but in it's sheath ... Memorial day 1978

#37

Passing the reviewing stand Bicentennial Parade July 1976 we had 3 sections for this parade American flag section ... Bicentennial and City Flag section and the remainder of the Honor Guard behind

#38

A picture of Melfi at veterans park waiting to put the American Flag on the cord and raise it once the national anthem is being played ... The other members were not in this picture five in all to put the flag up ...

It must be added that the Honor Guard had no rank we were all the same rank and a bunch of police officers and members of a very highly distinguished part of the Police Dept.. THE STAMFORD POLICE DEPT. HONOR GUARD

OTHER AREAS THAT THE HONOR GUARD WERE INVOLVED IN WERE THE FOLLOWING

POLICE BURIALS NOT ONLY OR OWN BUT FOR OTHER POLICE DEPTS IN THE SOUNDING ARE ... FOR OUR SCHOOLS OPENING CEREMONIES WHICH INCLUDED THE NATIONAL ANTHEM AND DURING THE ANTHEM THE MEMBERS WOULD PERFORM THE FLAG RAISING ON MOUNT SURIBACHI ON THE ISLAND OF IWO JIMA ... THE HONOR GUARD ALSO TRAVELED TO NEW YORK CITY TO LEAD THE PALASKI DAY GROUP FROM HOLY NAME R, C.

CHURCH IN STAMFORD ... WE TRAVELED IN POLICE VEHICLES AND THE PRISONER VAN (OF COURSE CLEANED OUT) TO ALL OF THE FUNCTIONS ... THE HONOR GUARD TRAVELED FROM STAMFORD TO UPSTATE CONNECTICUT NOT ONLY FOR REPRESENTING THE DEPT. IN OFFICERS WHO DIED IN THE LINE OF DUTY BUT FOR SEVERAL OPENING CEREMONIES... FOR THE GOVERNOR OF CONNECTICUT BUT ALSO FOR MAYORS AND OTHER DIGNITARIES AND HEADS OF STATE FROM MANY OTHER STATES AND COUNTRIES ... THE HONOR GUARD ALSO PERFORMED FOR THE CHIEFS OF POLICE THROUGHOUT THE STATE OF CONNECTICUT...

MEMBERS OF THE GUARD NOT ONLY PRACTICED TWO NIGHTS A WEEK AND WERE COMPENSATED FOR THEIR TIME EVEN DURING BURIAL DETAILS THE MEMBERS WERE GIVEN DAY OFF SLIPS FOR ANY MEMBER IN THE DETAIL AT THAT TIME ... MEMBERS ALSO WERE ASKED TO GO TO SEVERAL POLICE DEPTS. TO TEACH THEIR MEMBERS CEREMONIAL PROCEDURES ... AND WE DID ... FROM POLICE DEPTS. TO THE SHERIFFS DEPT. AND FIRE DEPTS THROUGHOUT CONNECTICUT ... EVEN THE VFW WANTED TO START A DRILL TEAM AND COMPETE IN THE VFW NATIONALS AND TRAVEL TO VARIOUS STATES ... WE EVEN SENT A MEMBER OF THE DEPT. HONOR GUARD TO TEACH THEM A DRILL (FOUR AND A HALF TO FIVE MIN. DRILL) WITH MUSIC ... THAT DRILL TEAM AND COLOR GUARD CONTINUED UP TO 2004 AND WERE CHAMPIONS FROM 1993,94,95, 97,98,99,2000,01,02,03,04 ...

MANY OTHER SCHOOLS AND CLUBS ASKED FOR OUR HELP BUT AS YOU KNOW WHEN A CERTAIN CHIEF CAME TO THIS DEPT. WE DISBANDED ALL OF OUR SPECIAL UNITS SWAT - BOMB SQUAD - HONOR GUARD - ETC.

YES, THE OLD HONOR GUARD STOOD OUT AND SHINED REPRESENTING THE STAMFORD POLICE DEPT.... AND THE MEMBERS WERE 25 STRONG

IT WAS CHIEF KINSELLA WHO ASKED ME TO START THE HONOR GUARD DUE TO THE FACT THAT ONE OF OUR OFFICERS WAS NOT GOING TO MAKE IT ... SO WE BEGAN AND ONE NIGHT THE CHIEF CAME TO ONE OF OUR PRACTICES AND OBSERVED US PRACTICING A BURIAL DETAIL ... IT WAS THEN HE SAID TO US "KEEP GOING " AND WHAT EVER YOU NEED ASK ME ... ONLY ONE THING THE CHIEF INSISTED ON WAS THAT WE KEEP OUR UNIFORM WITH SLIGHT CHANGES SUCH AS (SCARFS AND SHOULDER ROPES) ALONG WITH THE NEW LEATHER CORAFAM HOLSTER, BELT, AND HAND CUFF CASE ... THIS WAS THE ONLY CHANGE WE COULD MAKE ... THE UNIFORM THAT WE WANTED WAS THE SAME AS THE GUARD AT THE TOMB OF THE UNKNOWN SOLDIER ...

WE NEVER DID GET A CHANGE BUT WE DID HAVE DIFFERENT COLOR SCARFS AND MATCHING SCARFS ... BLUE TO MATCH THE STRIPE ON OUR TROUSERS AND BLACK FOR BURIAL DETAILS ...

A MEMBER OF THE HONOR GUARD ALSO TRAVELED TO MEMPHIS TENNESSEE WITH ONE OF OUR OWN OFFICER WILLIE BROWN FOR BURIAL IN

**TENNESSEE ... ONCE THERE OUR MEMBER (MELFI)
HAD TO TEACH THE METRO P. D. OF MEMPHIS A
BURIAL CEREMONY WHICH INCLUDED STANDING
GUARD (OR CASKET WATCH) EXCHANGED GUARD
EVERY 15 MINS. WITH NO COMMANDS AS WE DID ...
THE CHURCH SERVICE WITH POLICE BEARERS AND A
FLAG DETAIL IN AND OUT OF THE CHURCH AND AN
HONOR GUARD WHICH RENDERED A HAND SALUTE
WHILE THE CASKET WAS BEING CARRIED OUT FROM
THE CHURCH ... YET NO COMMANDS ... AND THE
FIRING SQUAD (WITH COMMANDS) ...**

**WE WERE A VERY PROUD BUNCH OF OFFICERS ...
PRACTICED HARD AND PERFORMED EXCELLENT
WE ALSO ARE PROUD TO HAVE REPRESENTED THE
OFFICERS OF THE STAMFORD POLICE DEPT. AND
THE HEADS OF OUR DEPT. IN ALL THAT WE DID ...**

JIM

**I ALSO, AM, PROUD INSTRUCTOR AND TO
HAVE SUCH TALENTED OFFICERS ... AND REMEMBER
NOT ALL WERE IN ANY BRANCH OF THE SERVICE ...
BUT TALENTED**

**THANK YOU FOR ALL YOU'RE DOING ...
KEEP UP THE EXCELLENT JOB ... LOVE YA**

**EDDIE MELFI RETIRED WITH 28
YEARS OF SERVICE AMEN**

In front of Town Hall

Firing squad

L to R

#138

Steve DeVito-Orgera-Fitzpatrick-Slesh-Perotta-Forlivio-Mackey-Sharkey

Joe Pucci in PD car #39

Parade in Newport R.I.

Holy Sperit School in front of the flag pole

L to R 1972

#40

*Melfi-Slesh-Coviello-Angelo-Byrne-Orgera-Barrett-Forlivio Docimo
Jim Byrne holding the Flag*

Raising the Flag at Vets. Park

#4 /

Mackey-Sharkey holding the cord

L to R

#42

Melfi back to pic. Mackey-Sharkey

Saluting

#43

Melfi back to pic.-Mackey-Sharkey

#44

Melfi holding the flag