



UNITY

THRU STRENGTH AND PURPOSE



Quarterly Voice of the Retired Detroit Police and Fire Fighters

Volume 166, Summer, 2026



PRESIDENT

Don Taylor

Summer has arrived, and perhaps gone a little overboard. Not long ago we were wishing for warmer days, and now many of us are hoping for a little less heat and humidity.

Our Association events are well underway. The picnic and General Meeting in Frankenmuth were recently held and were very well attended. It looked like everyone enjoyed themselves, and the weather certainly cooperated. Next up is the Golf Outing, and we hope to see all our golfers out on the course.

The Judge overseeing our case against the State has finally issued his decision. Unfortunately, it was not in our favor. After consulting with our attorney, the Board has decided not to appeal. Other than that, there is not much new to report. We continue to monitor Senate Bill 847, which would require seniors between the ages of 75 and 85 to take written and road tests when renewing their driver's license. We will keep an eye on it and share updates if anything changes.

This will be my final article as President. Age has a way of catching up with all of us, and with increasing health issues affecting both my wife and me, it is time to step down and allow the next

generation to take the lead. It has been an honor, a privilege, and a true pleasure to serve as your President. Thank you for the support you have shown me over the years—it has meant more than you know. Working together, we were able to improve several issues and benefits that have helped all of us.

In closing, I wish each of you the very best. May you enjoy many more years of happiness and good health.

Don

Upcoming Association Events at a glance

RDPFFA Annual Golf Outing

Oak Ridge Golf Club - New Haven, Michigan

August 14, 2026

SOLD OUT!

RDPFFA November Event

Firekeepers Casino Hotel - Battle Creek, MI

November 8 and 9, 2026

GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

AMERICAN LEGION - Carl E. Stitt Post 232

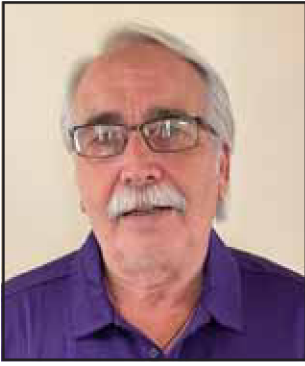
23850 Military Rd - Dearborn Heights, MI - 7 PM

October 1, 2026

AMERICAN POLISH CENTURY CLUB

33204 Maple Lane - Sterling Heights, MI - 7 PM

December 3, 2026



VICE PRESIDENT

Rick Kosmack

I hope your summer is going well and that we all have made it safely through the Canadian Smoke Out we all experienced.

My name is Rick Kosmack, and I have been appointed to take over as Vice President of the Association for Greg Trozak, who is dealing with some serious health issues. He is going through treatment and is hanging in there, and I know we all wish him a speedy recovery.

It is with sadness that we announce that Don Taylor has decided to retire as President from the RDPFFA Executive Board, effective August 1, 2026. Don has decided it would be better to spend more time with his family. He has been an Active member of the RDPFFA since 1998 and has been President of the Association since 2008. Good Luck Don and thanks for all of your hard work and dedication.

We had a successful Frankenmuth Picnic again this June, with approximately 200 in attendance. The weather was perfect, as was the food and drink. Thanks to all that attended. Mark your calendars as next year's dates are set. The picnic will be on Monday, June 21. Breakfast and Meeting will be Tuesday, June 22. Once again we will be in Frankenmuth at the same location. Additional information will be given at a later time.

Other upcoming events are our 35th Annual RDPFFA Golf Outing which is scheduled for Friday August

14th. It is sold out at this time and we hope to see a lot of you there.

The Association also has a group event planned for November 8th & 9th at Firekeepers Casino and Hotel in Battle Creek. Room rates are \$149.00 for a Classic King Room, use Group Code 1110826RDAB when booking. If you are a Veteran and a member of the Firekeepers Patriot Rewards Club you may be entitled to additional discounts. There will be Hospitality rooms each night. More information on this to follow.

Thursday October 1st will be the West Side General Meeting at the Carl Stitt Post, 23850 Military, Dearborn Hgts.

Thursday December 3rd will be the East Side General Meeting at the American Polish Century Club, 33204 Maple Lane Dr, Sterling Hgts. For both meetings, doors open at 5 PM, dinner is at 6:15 and the meeting is at 7 PM.

I will do my best to fill Greg's shoes in the future and I wish everyone a happy, healthy summer. I hope to see you at any or all of our upcoming events .

MEMBERS PLEASE NOTE

For your information and the Association's benefit, it is important that when your summer/winter address changes, we are notified in advance of the move and again when you are returning to your home address. That way we can keep our records current. We don't want to lose you in the process.



Retired Detroit Police & Fire Fighters Association Inc.

2525 E. Fourteen Mile Road • Sterling Heights, MI 48310-5969

(586) 795-1734 • Fax (586) 795-2183

Monday - Friday 9:00 a.m till 3:00 p.m.



OFFICERS

President

Donald Taylor

Vice President

Richard Kosmack

Secretary/Treasurer

Allan Grant

PUBLICATION/EDITOR

Al Grant

VIDEO/PHOTO WEBSITE

rdpffa.phanfare.com

Ken Gidner - Administrator

OFFICE E-MAIL

rdpffa@hotmail.com

WEB SITE

www.rdpffa.com



SECRETARY/ TREASURER

Al Grant

The summer season is here, Dog Days of Summer, referring to the hottest, most humid, and uncomfortable days of July and August (7-3 through 8-11). The term originates from ancient Roman astronomy, linking the season's intense heat to rising of Sirius (the "Dog Star"). At this time of year, Sirius, the brightest visible star in the sky, rises in the east at the same time as the Sun. Ancient Egyptians believed that the heat of this brilliant star added to the Sun's heat to create hotter weather.

As the Association moves along in the year, overall, we are having a good year. Our finances are in order and doing well. All our scheduled events have gone well, which included General Membership meetings and a social event up in Frankenmuth. The Board of Directors meet on a monthly schedule to review the Association's business.

I am reminding our members not to overlook updating your beneficiaries. Take the time and put the information together. It is important to list where documents and financial information can be found such as a Will,

Trust, Birth Certificate, Marriage Certificate, Original Social Security Card, Insurance Policies, Deeds, Bank Accounts, Pins to Accounts, Credit Card Accounts, Tax Returns and Stock Certificates. Also the location of Monetary Assets, Banks, Investment Accounts and Personal Computer Accounts should be recorded.

Take the time to put the information together for you and your family's benefit. In addition, Power of Attorney, Health Care and final wishes concerning burial and funeral arrangements are of upmost importance for your beneficiaries.

P/F Pension (313) 224-3362 DPOA (313) 567-8770
L & S (313) 961-5699 Fire Fighters Assc. (313) 962-7546
Firemen's Fund (313) 626-688 Additionally, I am printing an email for DPB&PA members.

Detroit Police Benefit & Protective Association needs you to update your information.

Life changes quickly – marriages, divorces, births, deaths and moves. Up-to-date contact details help to prevent delays, confusion, and unnecessary paperwork for your loved ones when a death benefit claim needs to be processed. That is why it's imperative to check on your beneficiary designations. Taking a few minutes now to confirm names, addresses, and phone numbers can make an enormous difference later for people you care about the most.

Please review your beneficiaries by calling Julie at (313) 870-9308, or by emailing customerservice@dpbpa.org.

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13th Precinct

Quarterly Retirees' Luncheon

11:00 A.M. - 2nd Tuesday of

March • June • September • December

Roger's Roost

33626 Schoenherr Rd.

Sterling Heights, MI 48312

(586) 979-7550

DEATH OF MEMBER FAMILY ASSISTANCE PROCEDURE

Communications vary whether member was Police, Fire, or Sergeant and above. If you are Police make your first call to the Detroit Police Benefit & Protective Association, (313) 870-9304. Followed by either a call to the Detroit Police Officer Association, (313) 567-8770, or the Lieutenants & Sergeants (313) 961-5699, which ever applies.

Follow up with a call to the Pension Bureau, (313) 224-3362 Ext. 214 or (800) 339-8344 and BeneSys (833) 725-5336 to make sure that they were notified. Last but not least, notify the Retired Detroit Police & Fire Fighters Association, (586) 795-1734.

Fire employees, start by notifying the Detroit Fire Fighter Association, (313) 962-7546, the Detroit Firemen's Fund Association, (313) 628-0099, Detroit Fire Mutual Fund call Firemen's Fund Association to leave a message, Detroit Pension Bureau, (313) 224-3362 or (800) 339-8344, ext 221 and BeneSys (833) 725-5336.

The above agencies will assist you with the notification process. It would be a good idea to put this information with your secured legal documents or some other obvious place where your survivors can locate it.

Detroit Police Department Retired Badges

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Available to R.D.P.F.F.A. Members

Contact Retired Detroit Police Officer George Toy at:
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Welcome New Members!

April 2026

Jamar Rickett - Police

May 2026

Daniel Green - Police

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Bryan A. Sunisloe

Attorney and Counselor

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Bryan@Sunisloelawoffice.com

UPCOMING SPECIAL EVENTS

Fire Fighters Breakfasts

First Monday of the month at 9:00 A.M.

Dimitri's Opa Restaurant – (NEW LOCATION)
50875 Gratiot Ave, Chesterfield, MI 48051-3133

Third Tuesday of the month at 9:00 A.M.

Omega Coney Island
22501 W. Eight Mile Rd., Detroit, MI

First Thursday of the month at 9:00 A.M.

IHOP Restaurant (NEW LOCATION)
8075 Nemco Way • Brighton, MI 48116
(810) 225-6020
Exit 145 off of I96 (Enter off Grand River)

*Call the Association Office
if you need additional information*



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ASSOCIATION CALENDAR OF EVENTS*

Updated!

General Membership Meeting Schedule:

AMERICAN LEGION

Carl E. Stitt Post 232

23850 Military Rd - Dearborn Heights, MI - 7 PM

October 1, 2026

AMERICAN POLISH CENTURY CLUB

33204 Maple Lane - Sterling Heights, MI - 7 PM

December 3, 2026

RDPFFA November Event

Firekeepers Casino Hotel - Battle Creek, MI

November 9 and 10, 2026

Snowbirds Of Michigan*

Meet 2nd Sunday of the month

May thru November

at "Fred's of Roscommon"

430 N. 5th Street - Roscommon, MI

Social Hour 11:00 AM – Meeting at 1:00 PM

*Refer to columns for specifics or program changes

**Articles for the Fall 2026
Issue should be
"submitted" by
September 25, 2026**



Snowbirds

Dan Zemaitis

Greetings from Northern Michigan

First of all we lost 2 long time Snowbird members. We lost George Perry – our sincere condolences go out to his wife Lorraine and Family. We also lost our member and friend Ted Ponik. Our sincere condolences go out to his wife Maryann and their family.

The RDPFFA picnic was great as always. It gives us a chance to visit with retirees who would otherwise not be able to do. Thank You

Sept. Birthdays: Carolyn Wood, Delphine Raska, Carol Grenard and Zig Bogumil

October Birthdays: Lillian Edwards, Donna Andrizzi and Bob Haderer

Nov. Birthdays: Bill Jasper, Maryann Sypniewski, Pat Samborski and John Wood

Note: The August meeting will be cancelled in lieu of our annual picnic on Monday, August 10th at 12 noon at the St. John Luthern property on Reserve Road in Houghton Lake Michigan. Just bring a dish to pass. All are welcome.

If you have information on members who are sick, disabled or who have passed please call me as we don't find out about the wives.

Thank you and God Bless (989) 305-1035

AMERICAN LEGION

Post 161

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Tony Treier: (586) 598-1386



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We are always looking for donations of memorabilia and we gladly accept financial donations as well.

*All donations are made through
the Detroit Public Safety Foundation - 501C3*

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Curator: Jeff Lemaux • Phone: (248) 245-0720

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Son of the Late Stephen Parsell
Retired Detroit Firefighter

Grandson of the Late Carl Parsell
*Former President of the D.P.O.A.
and Retired Detroit Police Officer*

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Paul Parsell is an assistant to Eric Schroeder who offers securities and investment advisory services through **Osaic Wealth, Inc.**, member FINRA/SIPC. **Osaic Wealth** is separately owned and other entities and/or marketing names, products or services referenced here are independent of **Osaic Wealth**.

Members Letters

Enclosed is a check for the PAC so that you can continue the great work for the membership. The donation is in memory of Marshal Smith and Loren Wagner.

Jim Purrington
Whitmore Lake, MI

Please accept this in memory of John F Campbell. To all that worked the street with him a brave good cop. Thanks for all you do with little appreciation and dues!

Den & Mag Barton
Caseville, MI

Thank you for everything you do for the Retirees! We deeply appreciate all the time, effort and work you continue to do for us! Please use this contribution wherever it is needed.

David and Susan Ramsey
Canton, MI

The Frankenmuth picnic and meeting was the first I had ever attended. I had a great time and got to see some old friends I had not seen in many, many years. The Bavarian Inn was also to be commended for their hospitality. The staff was cordial, helpful and all the meals were excellent. Thanks to you all. I know it was a lot of work on your part as well.

John Tsampikou
Chesterfield, MI

In Honor of: CRIMES AGAINST PROPERTY SECTION, Personnel, Especially Insps Don Pohl & Dick Ridling.

Andrea Zinser
Dearborn Hgts, MI

Please use this donation in any way you see fit for your organization. Please do this in memory of my dad, Detroit Fire Captain Earl R Cleland.

Michael Cleland
Washington, MI

Thank you to the Staff at RDPFFA for all the effort put forth for all the members. In memory of Thomas J Youngblood. - Best Regards.

Rosalie Youngblood
Macomb, MI

Please accept this donation in memory of Senior Chief Louis Gusoff. Thank you!

Craig & Jane Perrin
Northville, MI

Please accept this donation in memory of Lenny Riina and Jim Bednarski. They were my first scout car partners. Lots of memories!

Dennis Golec
Traverse City, MI

Please accept my check, I approve of all the good work your leaders have done for all Retirees/DPD. Would you note we support each other also, SNOW-BIRD CLUB" Thank You.

Don Rem
Hale, MI

Please accept this donation in memory of my husband, Lawrence Tront. I appreciate all that you do for retirees.

Elizabeth G Cook
Northville, MI

My wife Della Rozanski, loved to read the Unity to see how much the Association is fighting for the Police Officers and Fire Fighters. There seems to be too much hatred for those who sacrifice their time, talents and their lives too. This donation is in memory of her. Use it as you see fit. Thank You!

Jerome Rozanski
Roscommon, MI

Dedication in Memory of John "Nitro" Campbell

This donation is made in memory of John "Nitro" Campbell. We worked together for many years in the Narcotic Section and the Internal Affairs Section, and we stood by each other—always watching each other's "6"—through some of the most challenging moments of our careers. May he rest in peace. Please use this donation as you see fit, and continue the important work carried out on our behalf.

John H Autrey Retired Commander
Detroit, MI

In Memory of Sgt Raymond F Rito, Husband and Father, God Bless To All.

Diane Rito, Christine Smith
& Carrie Molino
Trenton, MI

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Detroit Firemen's Fund Association



Firefighters Memorial Service

The Detroit Firemen's Fund Annual Memorial Day March to remember and honor all deceased Firefighters was held on Monday, May 25, 2026. Everyone gathered at Engine 9's quarters on Lafayette and began marching at 9:00 a.m. to Elmwood Cemetery. The annual service was then held at the cemetery following the procession.







IN MEMORIAM

Once again, we call the roll and acknowledge those friends and associates who have left us since our last publication. It is hard to let go of good friends but it is easy to remember the good times we shared and realize that now they rest in peace.

LATE ENTRY

Name	Rank	Dept.	Appointed	Retired	Date of Death	Age
Smith, Albert	P.O.	Police	7-22-85	1-11-95	11-11-25	72
Blackman, Roy	Sgt.	Police	1-26-70	3-6-98	12-7-25	85
Powell, Samuel	P.O.	Police	7-8-85	9-15-01	12-9-25	75
Glover, George	P.O.	Police	5-5-69	4-14-84	12-19-25	79
Purdo, David	P.O.	Police	11-26-62	12-30-77	12-22-25	84
Hannah, Stephen	Inv.	Police	4-21-86	3-28-13	2-17-26	74

April 2026

Name	Rank	Dept.	Appointed	Retired	Date of Death	Age
Byrne, Kevin	P.O.	Police	7-1-85	9-24-09	4-22-26	67
Hetherington, William	Sgt.	Police	7-1-85	9-10-07	4-8-26	71
Hutsco, Leslie	P.O.	Police	9-9-70	8-6-91	4-5-26	76
Lis-Haddon, Darlene	Inv.	Police	4-15-86	6-27-13	4-22-26	62
McCord, Frank	P.O.	Police	3-21-94	3-1-16	4-13-26	58
Pilkey, Jonathan	P.O.	Police	5-10-71	7-7-95	4-23-26	83
Raiford, Henry	P.O.	Police	4-5-73	1-15-83	4-28-26	74
Smith, Daniel	P.O.	Police	10-18-71	8-17-04	4-18-26	77
Storm, Bernard	P.O.	Police	7-17-67	3-17-04	4-26-26	83
Tibbals, Daniel	P.O.	Police	7-28-73	1-31-92	4-10-26	77
Tomlinson, Michael	Sgt.	Police	9-12-60	8-1-91	4-15-26	87
Brown, Anthony	Capt.	Fire	8-6-84	11-1-15	4-26-26	70
Gable, Timothy	FEO	Fire	7-1-63	7-3-88	4-1-26	83
Gassel, Larry	Bt. Chief	Fire	8-8-77	8-8-17	4-18-26	68
Hughes, Gina	Capt.	Fire	2-3-13	6-28-13	4-19-26	68
Paruszkiewicz, Lawrence	FFD	Fire	7-30-56	7-28-71	4-12-26	91
Woodward, Anthony	FF	Fire	5-7-78	1-9-97	4-16-26	77

May 2026

Name	Rank	Dept.	Appointed	Retired	Date of Death	Age
Burkos, Marcianna	P.O.	Police	11-8-66	2-18-92	5-7-26	85
Covington, James	Sgt.	Police	10-9-67	1-26-98	5-20-26	88
Glaze, Thelma	P.O.	Police	8-12-74	3-19-93	5-6-26	75
Martin, Darell	P.O.	Police	3-10-69	3-21-94	5-26-26	83
Ponik, Ted	Sgt.	Police	10-26-53	8-16-80	5-4-26	96
Taylor, Michelle	P.O.	Police	5-19-77	9-5-87	5-13-26	71
Anderson, Larry	Capt.	Fire	9-24-62	6-29-92	5-1-26	86
Falbo, Eugene	Bt. Chief	Fire	7-30-56	4-5-93	5-13-26	92
Gersch, Hubert	Bt. Chief	Fire	1-3-61	2-7-94	5-5-26	91
Norris, Kelly	Capt.	Fire	9-9-57	7-3-91	5-23-26	94

(continued on next page)

June 2026

Name	Rank	Dept.	Appointed	Retired	Date of Death	Age
Anderson, James	Sgt.	Police	5-5-69	5-22-98	6-21-26	83
Barnett, Leon	Sgt.	Police	3-10-52	11-20-93	6-10-26	96
Cochran, Edward	Sgt.	Police	9-2-68	9-13-04	6-6-26	77
Dekoski, Raymond	P.O.	Police	7-9-62	10-30-87	6-8-26	86
Greene, Kevin	P.O.	Police	2-18-74	1-4-91	6-23-26	74
Hadacz, Robert	P.O.	Police	9-14-70	9-13-85	6-5-26	77
Kersanty, Paul	P.O.	Police	7-27-73	7-28-99	6-23-26	77
Kummer, Gerald	Sgt.	Police	1-11-54	12-16-89	6-17-26	95
McDonald, Bruce	Sgt.	Police	11-18-72	6-9-98	6-2-26	75
Olejniak, Richard	P.O.	Police	10-9-72	4-5-86	6-3-26	75
Orr, Deborah	P.O.	Police	5-19-77	1-6-88	6-13-26	70
Stewart, Gerard	Cmdr	Police	2-24-60	1-3-00	6-30-26	87
Walcheck, Suzanne	P.O.	Police	2-2-87	10-1-91	6-15-26	75
Wroblewski, Daniel	P.O.	Police	6-18-73	10-17-92	6-4-26	76
Benton, Dennis	Lt.	Fire	7-7-64	1-6-90	6-14-26	85
Masty, Dennis	FF	FF	9-18-72	9-5-82	6-30-26	74



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2027 DUES NOTICE

2027 Dues \$36.00 Retired Detroit Police & Fire Fighters Association

Please Complete This Form & Return with Payment

Application for Renewal_____ New_____ Associate_____

Name_____ Phone_____

Address_____ E-Mail_____

City_____ State_____ Zip_____

For Additional Assistance Contact Association Office 586-795-1734

Make Checks Payable to: Retired Detroit Police & Fire Fighters Association

Mail to: 2525 E 14 Mile Rd Sterling Heights, MI 48310-5969

Amount Paid_____ Date Paid_____ Check No_____

Please Disregard if Dues have already been Paid

IRS Notice 835 (Jan 88) Noncharitable Contribution

PAYROL DEDUCTION FORM

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Pension Number _____ Social Security Number _____

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ATTENTION VETERANS!

Free burial at the Great Lakes National Cemetery is available for you, your spouse and your dependent children age 21 and under. Burial and memorial benefits available include a gravesite in any VA national cemetery with available space, opening and closing of the grave, perpetual care, a government headstone, marker, or medallion, Presidential Memorial Certificates, and a burial flag all at no cost to the family. VA burial allowances may also be available for eligible Veterans. Cremated remains are buried or inurned in national cemeteries in the same manner and with the same honors as casketed remains.

Go to: https://www.cem.va.gov/burial_benefits for more information

REMEMBRANCE AND THANK YOU

The following supporters, their names and in names of their loved ones, have contributed most generously to our Legal, Appreciation and P.A.C. Funds. Your continued support of our Association is the encouragement we need and reflects your recognition of the Association's efforts in your behalf.

Appreciation (Donation)

Autrey, John H *in memory of*
John 'Nitro' Campbell

Barton, Den & Mag *in memory of*
John Campbell

Cleland, Michael & Denise *in mem-*
ory of Captain Earl R Cleland (DFD)

Golec, Dennis & Barbara *in memory*
of Lenny Riina & Jim Bednarski

Cook, Elizabeth *in memory of*
Lawrence Tront

Harbar, Lucian *in memory of*
James (Pinky) Penkala

Miller, Karen *in memory of*
Greg Huizar

Perrin, Craig & Jane *in memory of*
Senior Chief Louis Gusoff

Rem, Don & Cynthia *in memory of*
'Snow Bird' Recognition Club

Rito, Diane *in memory of*
Sgt Raymond F. Rito

Rozanski, Jerome *in memory of*
Della Rozanski

Youngblood, Rosalie *in memory of*
Thomas J Youngblood

Zinser, Andrea *in memory of*
Insp Don Pohl & Dick Ridling

Appreciation (Donation)

Purrington, Jim *in memory of*
Marshal Smith & Loren Wagner

Appreciation (Donation)

Falkowski, Ken

Falkowski, Ken

Falkowski, Ken

Gatto, Charles

Hynes, Melbourne

Hynes, Melbourne J

Isken, Wayne

Isken, Wayne

Isken, Wayne

Mathews, Roger & Valerie

Morawa, Dennis & Barbara

O'Dea, Terry & Cathie

Phillips, Charlie & Kathleen

Phillips, Charlie & Kathleen

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Ramsey, David & Susan

Seneski, Lawrence

Sumeracki, Gary & Sophia

Tsampikou, John M



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