

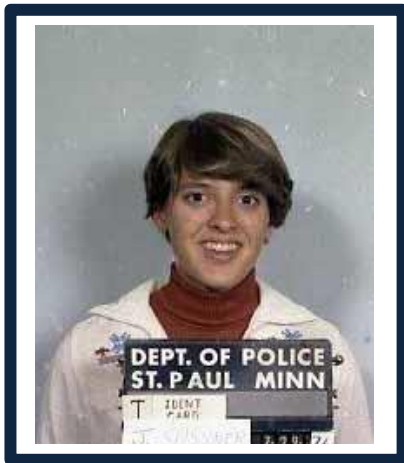
Transcript of a Saint Paul Police oral history interview with

Executive Assistant Julia Rust

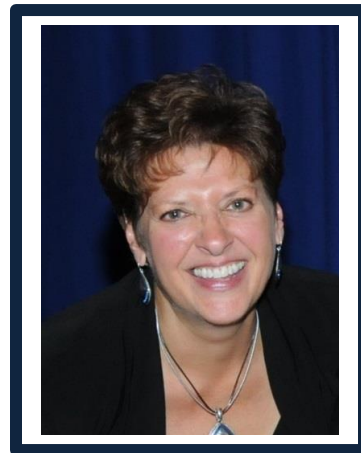
Saint Paul Police 1976 - 2012

Officer Lyle Rust

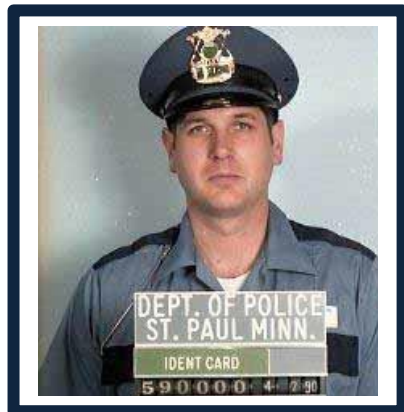
Saint Paul Officer 1990 – 2012



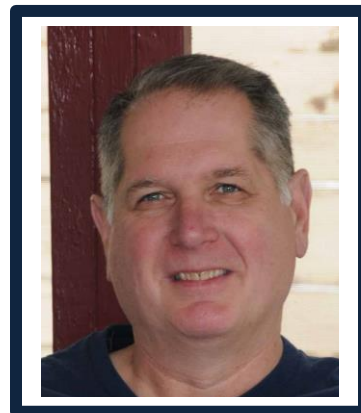
1976



2015



1990



2015

Interviewed October 8, 2015

by Kate Cavett of HAND in HAND Productions

at the Rust Home in Cottage Grove, MN

© Hand in Hand Productions

2015

This project has been made possible by the Arts and Cultural Heritage Fund through the vote of Minnesotans on November 4, 2008. Administered by the Minnesota Historical Society.

All pictures are from the Saint Paul Police Department collections,
and the Rust family.

ORAL HISTORY

Oral History is the spoken word in print.

Oral histories are personal memories shared from the perspective of the narrator. By means of recorded interviews oral history documents collect spoken memories and personal commentaries of historical significance. These interviews are transcribed verbatim and minimally edited for accessibility. Greatest appreciation is gained when one can listen to an oral history aloud.

Oral histories do not follow the standard language usage of the written word.

Transcribed interviews are not edited to meet traditional writing standards; they are edited only for clarity and understanding. The hope of oral history is to capture the flavor of the narrator's speech and convey the narrator's feelings through the timbre and tempo of speech patterns.

An oral history is more than a family tree with names of ancestors and their birth and death dates. Oral history is recorded personal memory, and that is its value. What it offers complements other forms of historical text, and does not always require historical corroboration. Oral history recognizes that memories often become polished as they sift through time, taking on new meanings and potentially reshaping the events they relate.

Memories shared in an oral histories create a picture of the narrator's life – the culture, food, eccentricities, opinions, thoughts, idiosyncrasies, joys, sorrows, passions - the rich substance that gives color and texture to this individual life.

Kate Cavett, Oral Historian
HAND in HAND Productions
Saint Paul, Minnesota
651-227-5987
www.oralhistorian.org

Julia Mary Sussner Wilmes Rust

was appointed Clerk I July 28, 1976; Clerk Typist September 16, 1977;
Clerk Typist III July 21, 1984; Clerk V August 27, 1988;
Executive Assistant January 19, 2008;
and retired August 31, 2012.

Lyle David Rust

was appointed Police Officer June 10, 1990; and retired 9/30/2012

KC: Kate Cavett

JR: Julia Rust

LR: Lyle Rust

KC: We're sitting in the Rust home in Cottage Grove, overlooking the beautiful scenery and the Mississippi River Valley. Please introduce yourselves.

LR: I'm Lyle Rust. I graduated here, Cottage Grove's¹ Park High School, in 1975 and went into the Air Force right after that. In fact, it was a week out of high school

¹ **Cottage Grove**, Minnesota is a city located 10 miles south of Saint Paul in Washington County in the State of Minnesota. The city lies on the north bank of the Mississippi River, north of the confluence with the Saint Croix River. Cottage Grove and nearby suburbs form the southeast portion of Minneapolis-Saint Paul, the sixteenth largest metropolitan area in the United States, with about 3.5 million residents. The city is linked by U.S. Highways 10 and 61 and has a comfortable commute to both downtowns. Once a rural township known for the state's first creameries and wheat production, the area was served by rail lines, river shipping, and grist mills.

that I went into basic training, and I was a security police for four years and got out in 1979. After that I went to Saint Cloud State University² for four years, got my Bachelor of Arts with a double major of History and Political Science. Following that, I went into the Army. I went to officer candidate school and then served three-and-a-half years active duty where I was platoon leader in Korea and a property book officer serving in Fort Worth, Georgia.



Lyle in Korea

1984



Captain Lyle Rust

1991

Following that was when I decided that I wanted to come out as a police officer. The only problem was that with the education that I had prior to that, I needed to take some requisite classes in order to do that. So I went back to Saint Cloud State University and incorporated a Master's program in the classes that I needed. I did a thesis on serial murder. It was called the Violent Criminal Apprehension Program and Its Application in Serial Murder. Following that, I

² **St. Cloud State University** (SCSU) is a public university founded in 1869 above the Beaver Islands on the Mississippi River in St. Cloud, Minnesota, United States. The university is one of the largest schools in the Minnesota State Colleges and Universities (MnSCU) system, which is the largest provider of higher education in Minnesota.

went through the Skills Program and was employed by the Saint Paul Police Department — what was it— April 2nd, 1990?

KC: Was that your choice of departments or did you apply to a lot of places?

LF: I had applied to a number of places. I actually was on the listing on Minneapolis to be—both of the academies started on the same day. Minneapolis offered me a position, but I chose the Saint Paul over Minneapolis for a number of reasons: the pay and I had heard that Saint Paul was a very good department.

KC: And what brought you to Saint Paul Police?

JR: Well, I grew up on the West Side³ of Saint Paul, went to Humboldt High School,⁴ and the Personnel or the HR Unit would go to the high school and recruit people to work weekends there. That was back when you took stenography. You would do the statements, and they were looking for typists, so my sister Sandy was employed there. And when I graduated in June of 1976, I started in July of '76 with the department and have been there for over thirty-six years.

³ **Saint Paul's West Side** neighborhood is actually to the south and across the Mississippi River from downtown Saint Paul. It is called the West Side because it is on the west *bank* of the predominantly north-south Mississippi River. It is adjacent to the suburban cities of South Saint Paul and West Saint Paul.

⁴ **Humboldt Junior and Senior High** was constructed in 1909 at Humboldt, Elizabeth, and Livingston on Saint Paul's West Side. This building became a junior high in 1976 when a new senior high building was constructed on the same grounds.

Sussner Sisters:
Julia Rust, Barb Sussner,
and Sandy Olson
2001



KC: Did you take any time off in that thirty-six years?

JR: I was in the military, so I was just off for basic training for three months. But no, otherwise I only worked for the police department.

KC: At what age did you go into the military?

JR: It was in 1979, so I was about twenty-one, and I was actually, like, one of the older people in basic training, so everybody seemed very young back then, so I was kind of like the mom. [both laugh] Mom at twenty-one.

KC: So it was the Army Reserve?

JR: Army National Guard.

KC: Army National Guard. How many years were you in the military?

JR: Six years.



KC: And what was your assignment in the military?

JR: I started out as a company clerk, kind of like Radar⁵ in a medical unit, and then went on to become a medic. So I finished out as a Specialist Five, which is equivalent to a hard stripe sergeant.

⁵ **Corporal** Walter Eugene "**Radar**" O'Reilly appears in the M*A*S*H novels, film, and in the 1970's comedy TV series M*A*S*H about a mobile army surgical hospital in Korea. The series lasted eleven years with 251 episodes made and won countless awards. "Radar" was portrayed by Gary Burghoff in both the film and on television, one of only two actors from the film to reprise his role on television.



A gift from Lyle
Honoring Julie's
Military Service

KC: Why did you leave the military?

JR: Well, I got the six years in and then to re-up, you had to re-up for three, which would have put me at nine, and then it's like you're almost halfway there for the twenty. I already had two children. I was working as a review officer in a Records Unit, and you're working all different shifts, seven days a week, and it

was just getting to be a little too hard, a little too hard on the family. So I opted out.

KC: How did growing up in the department and having children in the department, how did that work together?

JR: As far as was it difficult?

KC: You were married fairly young.

JR I was married fairly young. I actually got married just before I went in the military, just before I left for basic training, so I got married at twenty-one. My ex-husband had mixed feelings about my working for the police department, but it was a good job and I moved up in the ranks. I started as a weekend person, working midnights, and then was promoted up until I became a review officer, which is a supervisor.

KC: So you took maternity leaves off to have your three children?

JR: I did, yep. Two weeks for the first one. [laughs]

I was working midnights and my poor mother, she took care of my newborn son. Scared her to death that



Baby Chad Wilmes

February 1982

he was going to stop breathing on her. It was challenging, and I remember our youngest, Nate, he asked why Santa Claus came on a different day for us. [all laugh] I'm like, "Well, it's always earlier." So yeah, things were pretty challenging, having children and working the different shifts, because I think that's kind of why because I was working weekends that I kind of stopped going to church with them. That's one of the things that kind of went by the wayside. That probably was one of my regrets.

KC: So your kids grew up in the department.

JR: They did.

KC: How has that influenced them?

JR: Well, our youngest⁶—I keep saying “our.” All of them are Lyle’s stepsons, but our youngest is walking the path right now to become a police officer. He was a parking enforcement officer with the department for

four years.

LR: Yes.

JR: And sadly he took the test and didn’t pass it for Saint Paul, but he is currently working for Shannon Hutton⁷ at Saint Thomas as a public safety officer, and he is applying at different departments around. So we’re very proud of him, although we did say, “Why do you want to do this? You know? I mean, you’re damned if you do and damned if you don’t.” And he just looked at me and said, “Well, someone’s got to do it.” I just thought he was wise beyond his years. He’s like a little mini clone of Lyle.

LR: Well, that’s scary.



Nate Wilmes

c. 2009

⁶ **Nathan James Wilmes** appointed parking enforcement officer October 26, 2009, and resigned November 14, 2014. As of this interview, he worked as a public safety officer at the University of St. Thomas in Saint Paul.

⁷ **Shannon Marie Hutton** was appointed police officer September 19, 1988; promoted to acting sergeant October 29, 2002; reinstated to police officer February 1, 2003; appointed sergeant October 26, 2002, and retired June 17, 2010. At the time of this interview, she was a lieutenant at in the Public Safety department at the University of St. Thomas in Saint Paul.

JR: It was, because he was like three when we started dating, I think. So I think that you've had the most influence on him.

LR: Yep.

KC: So what was it like those first years for you after you were assigned to Central District?

LR: Well, like any new job, it's a learning process, but obviously you've got some veteran police officers that help you out a lot. I mean, I had as sergeants on the day shift – Ron Nagel⁸ and Bob Patsy.⁹ I mean, they were very seasoned. They took care of me. And I also had some good people who were working there. Bruce Brodt,¹⁰ who used to call me Gomer when I was there, but that's okay. I probably was a babe in the woods. Steve Jabs¹¹ was there, Dan Collins,¹² Dennis Tubrity,¹³ and many others. And they help you get by. So it was basically a learning process.

I was working days for the first few years. Days is good, but to really get to know the job on the street, you got to work afternoons or midnights. So I

⁸ **Ronald Nagel** was appointed patrolman April 1, 1968; promoted to sergeant October 14, 1972; and retired March 31, 2001.

⁹ **Robert Richard Patsy** was appointed patrolman November 2, 1964; promoted to sergeant September 6, 1975; and retired December 30, 1994.

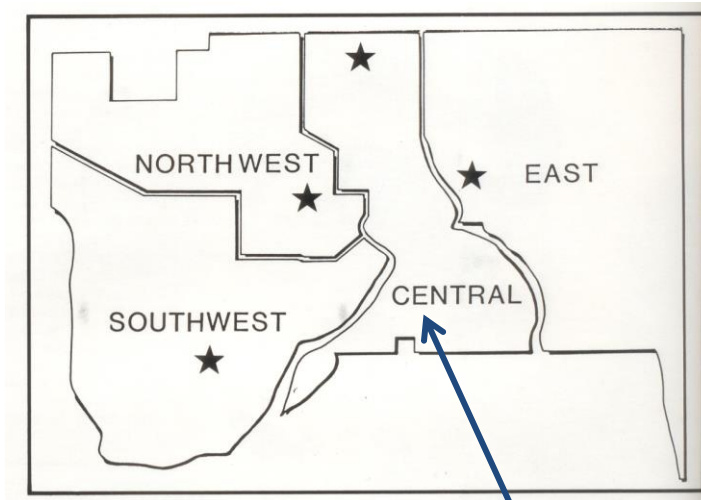
¹⁰ **Bruce Frankin Brodt** was appointed police officer January 23, 1971; and retired July 30, 1999.

¹¹ **Steven Jabs** was appointed police officer March 13, 1978; and retired September 3, 2007.

¹² **Daniel Richard Collins** was appointed police officer October 26, 1971, promoted to sergeant August 17, 1996, and retired May 31, 2001.

¹³ **Dennis Karl Tubrity** was appointed police officer September 3, 1968, and retired November 23, 1993.

volunteered to go on midnights after that, and that's where you really learn how to put things together, I guess.



1984 – 1993 Saint Paul had four patrol districts

KC: Tell me some stories about working afternoons and midnights.

LR: Well, back then it was probably 1993 or '94, I was working the West Side, and there was a lot of gang activity. We had the Homeboys in particular. There was a lot of shootings and stabbings during the weekends, and you're just going from call to call. I mean, we had one person—I don't know if we can name suspect names. Nathan Golden was pretty notorious at that time. He was probably suspected of three homicides during a period of a year, year-and-a-half, of which he was only convicted of one. I was FTOing¹⁴ Paul Meffert¹⁵ at the time. And

¹⁴ FTO: field training officer.

¹⁵ **Paul Edward Meffert** was appointed police officer May 2, 1994; promoted to sergeant September 12, 1988; deceased April 22, 2012.

what had happened was that there was this guy who was at one of the local bars. I don't think it was the Cozy.¹⁶ It was the one right next door. Where did we go?

JR: Joseph's.¹⁷

LR: Joseph's bar at the time was right next door to The Cozy. And he was accused of fondling a woman's behind, and he was all of a sudden confronted by a lot of these gang members, so he was able to seize a two-by-four to defend himself. Then he ran across the street, ran over the fence of The Cozy, and there was an apartment complex next there. Well, Nathan Golden was a little bit quicker, and he was able to climb the fence, and he beat the guy to death with the two-by-four—fractured his skull. Paul Meffert and I were first on the scene and it was fresh. I mean, this guy had just died. So he went away for a while for that, but as usual, it doesn't last for long, so he got back out on the street and was subsequently murdered by—I think it was his cousin.

KC: What was it like? You're a fairly young officer and you're seeing somebody who's just been murdered, you have to deal with the body.

LR: Well, obviously, that's very interesting. I had taken some homicide investigation classes when I was in grad school, but it's nothing like the real thing. I mean, it's pretty chaotic, but obviously the department has a standard procedure. This happens from time to time in the city, so you just secure the scene, call for the supervisor. Everybody knows what they're supposed to do, and you just drive on from there.

¹⁶ **Cozy Bar** at 202 Cesar Chavez Street, Saint Paul, MN 55107. As of 2015, it is called Cozy Cantina.

¹⁷ **Joseph's Grill**, located at Concord and State Street 1986 - 2001, since 2001 at 140 Wabasha South Street, Saint Paul, MN 55107.

JR: So you fall back on training.

LR: Yeah, you do.

JR: He actually does better with other people's blood than his own. [all laugh]

LR: Yeah, that's true. I'm kind of a wuss when it comes to bleeding myself. And obviously you're going to go and see many pretty bad scenes, stabbings and whatnot, but you just do what you have to do.

JR: Probably better to be his way, huh? [all laugh] If you're in that profession, that is.

LR: Yeah, especially when you have a DOA that's particularly ripe. I can probably handle that smell better than some people. I've seen some people really not like it at all—

JR: Gag?

LR: Yeah. And it can be tough, depending on how far along the body is.

KC: So I'm hearing you talk about you just do what you have to do. What prepared you, what trained you to be able to just keep putting one foot in front of the other and not get into your own emotions so that you could help with the situation?

LR: I would have to say primarily that was happening ever since I joined the military when I was seventeen. I think I grew up very quickly. I can just remember, like any teenager, thinking that my parents didn't know what they were talking about, my dad was full of crap. It took me probably about four or five months in the military to realize everything he had told me about life was the gospel truth. So I came to a greater appreciation of him in particular. So yeah, I think the military training just helps you deal with that type of thing.

JR: Weren't you guarding nuclear weapons?

LR: Well, yeah, security police, we primarily guard nuclear weapons. Usually they're B-52s loaded with four nuclear weapons ready to go, and that was part of a nuclear triad where they're ready to go in case of an attack. But we also guarded nuclear weapons in their storage sites. So it was an important job, kind of boring, truthfully, at the time. Nobody was trying to actively take them, which is a good thing, but a lot of long nights on the flight line.

KC: I was told that you are an officer that doesn't cut corners, that you do it by the book. Do you think going into the military at eighteen and training your mind to think that there are times to absolutely follow the procedures—starting at eighteen following procedures, did that help you learn this style of being a standup cop?

LR: Yes, pure and simple. I think that's only way that you can function in the military. And obviously the police department is quasi-military in that respect. So yeah, I think it definitely helped.

KC: Did you run into some officers that wanted to be more creative and that had challenges with the situations that you could just go in and handle?

LR: Everybody has their strengths and weaknesses. There may have been some like that, but there were also some who were incredibly creative, that I wish that I could be that way, who would really think on their feet and then really do some [incredible things]. But I wasn't like that. Again, I guess my strengths in some respects was being able to do that, but there were some who were just like wow, where did that come from? It was incredible what they could do.

KC: What was one of the early experiences in the first five years that has stayed with you?

LR: I can remember a very loud domestic situation on the West Side. It was in the middle of the winter. I think it was in February, and I was with Dave Stokes.¹⁸ Again, very loud screaming. We went around the back of the house and it was very icy. We really did not have sure footing. But as soon as we got around to the back of the house, we saw a Native American female running out with a butcher knife, but she's running away from another Native American male with another ten, twelve inch butcher knife going after her. So Dave took care of her, and I knew I didn't have to worry about her because Dave had her, and I confronted him. He saw me, he started running back into the house. The problem was is that you could hear kids, at least two kids crying in the house, and I was afraid there was going to be a possible hostage situation. So I ran towards him. He was right in the doorway. We were not far from each other. I would say probably no more than six feet. He had a knife raised up, I pulled my gun out, and we were real close. In retrospect, we were far closer than we should have been, because had he decided to stab me, yeah, I could have killed him, but I would have been severely hurt, if not killed myself.

JR: Was that Kingbird?

LR: Yeah. And he had just allegedly sucker punched one of our police officers a couple weeks beforehand. So I'm sure it didn't take very long, but I told him to drop the knife, and he did eventually. And then he ran into the house, and I ran in after him and tackled him and was able to handcuff him. But it was a very

¹⁸ David Kevin Stokes was appointed police officer December 13, 1993.

close-run thing and I learned that I should never have gotten that close to a person, because he could have really messed me up bad, but fortunately it worked out.

KC: I've had the opportunity to go through the Citizens Academy twice, and I've been exposed to the training about how a knife is as dangerous as a gun.

LR: Well, you don't have to reload a knife. And actually some of the worst crime scenes I've ever seen involved a knife.

JR: Well, and a knife goes through a vest, too. It's a bulletproof vest, but a knife will go through it.

LR: Yeah, it'll pierce it.

KC: And you're wearing vests at this point.

LR: Yes.

KC: I've done interviews from the time before handcuffs were part of the standard procedure, before vests were part of standard procedure [all laugh], so I put it all into perspective.

What was it like that night when you went home? Do you go home and relive it? Think about it?

LR: You do, but not to a particular degree, I guess. You have to be psychologically prepared that something like that can happen, and that makes things a lot easier, but sure, you think of it. You think about how close it could have been, but it eventually goes away. You do according to what you were trained and you learn from it.

KC: You said you were an FTO.

LR: Yes, by default. I mean, everybody who has three years on, especially if you're working midnights, has got to be an FTO. They just need people to train, so yeah, I got that experience. I think I FTOed a total of sixteen people during my career. Not as a primary. But yeah, it was rewarding. Had some good people, real good people.

JR: He's a good instructor. He was a Use of Force instructor too when he was there and he believes in it. He's a good mentor, good teacher.

LR: Thank you, hon.

JR: You're welcome, babe. [all laugh] See if I were sitting next to him, he'd be kicking me.

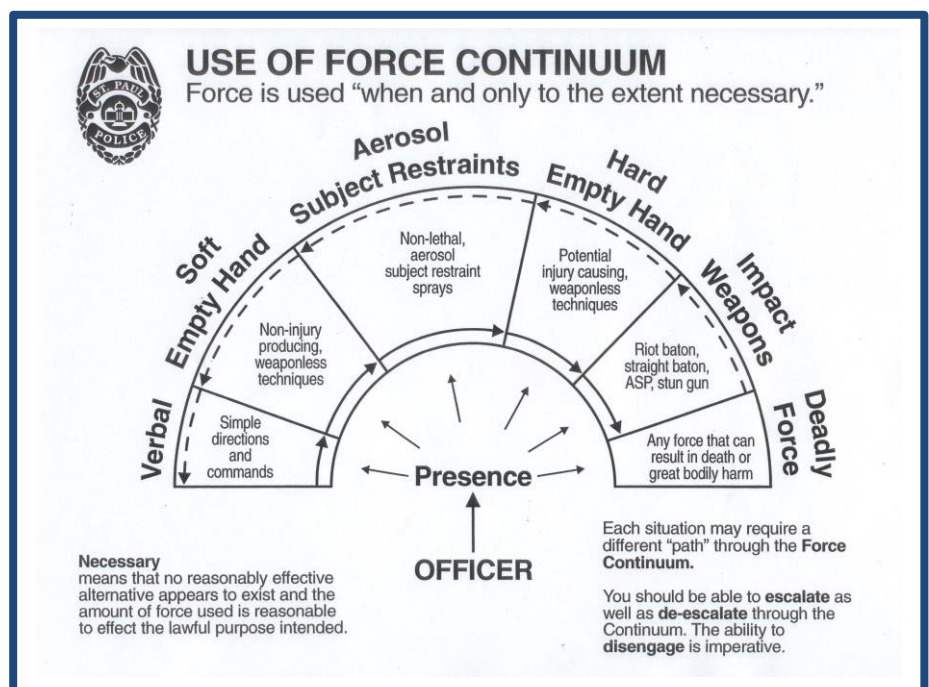
KC: That's why we have you at opposite ends of the table.

LR: Exactly.

KC: So you became a Use of Force instructor about—

LR: Three years into my career.

KC: Okay, so that's very early in your career.



LR: Yeah. And again, it was something I wanted to do. It's something I believe in. It was always good to go through the training, because it reminds you the things that you need to do to stay safe on the streets. So it was good to do that. It was good to help people out in that respect, too.

JR: Because you struggled a little bit in the beginning, too, didn't you?

LR: Oh, my FTO was horrendous. I mean, I was really hard on myself. I had good FTOs, but I just wasn't getting it. In particular, learning geography was hard, and if you're going to a call and you can't even figure out where you're going, let alone figuring out what you're going to do once you get there, it made for some difficulties. And again, I had good people. I'm not going to blame them. I mean, it was on me. In fact, I used to say all the FTOs were going to chip in money to buy me a glass stomach for Christmas. That way I could see with my head up my ass. [all laugh]

KC: Who were your FTOs?

LR: I had—let's see. I had Mark Nelson¹⁹ and at that time, his wife Sue Nelson.²⁰ I had

¹⁹ **Mark George Nelson** was appointed police officer September 11, 1999.

²⁰ **Susan Nancy Nelson Jones** was appointed police officer June 30, 1986, and retired May 30, 2014.

Randy Schwartz,²¹ Mike Bisson,²² Bill Martinez,²³ Mark Pierce,²⁴ and Mike Ganzel.²⁵ You're only supposed to have five. I had seven, because I flunked twice. [all laugh] I was set back. It's one of those deals. The academy was relatively not difficult, probably because it was regimented like a military deal, but once I got into FTO, never having been a cop, I had my issues.

KC: What was that like for you? Speak more of —

LR: Well, I was hard on myself. Actually Bill Gillespie²⁶ was a sergeant-in-training, among others, and they actually brought me back to see the psychologist, which I had no difficulty with whatsoever. I ended up taking another test and talking to the guy. That was fine. I knew I didn't have any issues in that respect, but they just were looking to see what was going on. And he gave me the okay, said, "You're personality fits that of what we want as a police officer." So they set me up with Mark Pierce, and I knew that he was going to be the guy. It was going to be make or break. If I didn't pass with him, then I was going to be gone. I had

²¹ **Randall Craig Schwartz** was appointed police officer January 30, 1984; and retired April 2, 2004.

²² **Michael Edward Bisson** was appointed police officer March 13, 1978; and resigned March 20, 2002.

²³ **William Martinez** was a Minnetonka Police Officer 1984 – 1987. He was hired to work undercover through a lateral transfer to the Saint Paul Police Department October 5, 1987. Transferred to police officer November 5, 1988; promoted to sergeant June 19, 1994; lieutenant July 3, 1999; title changed to commander January 1, 2000; senior commander June 12, 2004; assistant chief May 29, 2012.

²⁴ **Mark Kevin Pierce** was appointed police officer June 30, 1986; promoted to sergeant July 31, 1999, and retired June 28, 2013.

²⁵ **Michael Timothy Ganzel** was appointed police officer May 22, 1972; and retired December 17, 1999.

²⁶ **William Allan Gillespie** appointed police officer May 22, 1972; promoted to sergeant December 23, 1979; and retired December 30, 1997.

enough pride to say that if he would have given me that conversation I would have resigned the next day of my own volition. But hey, we hit it off right. He was able to get me relaxed, and we had fun, and I was able to pass that phase and pass phase five. But truthfully, I kind of think I owe my career to Mark Pierce. He really helped. It was at a critical point for me.

KC: In reflecting, what was holding you back from being all that you could be?

LR: Probably myself. Probably just I get down on myself a lot sometimes and I made it more difficult. I mean, the whole FTO process is always hard. Even if you're doing well, you've got somebody evaluating you and that just makes it more difficult, but if you're having tough calls, tough days, for me tough weeks [laughs], it just makes it a little bit harder. But bottom line is I got through it.

KC: Where did you find your own push to get through it? It sounds like you were critical of yourself and yet you absolutely believed in yourself that you could do this.

LR: I had the same difficulty when I was in officer candidate school. I was at a point where I had not passed any leadership positions, and I had one last shot. It was the same deal. And we had Ranger Week where we were going out and setting up ambushes and stuff like that in the middle of the night. But I was able to get through it, and the people behind me probably could have said, "Well, we don't like this guy," and could have not helped me out, but they also helped me out and I got through that. I had been through tough situations like that prior to my FTO experience, so I knew I just had to drive on.

KC: I bet you were a great FTO.

LR: Well, I tried not to be hard on my people. I mean, I don't think it's a real good way to get people to learn. Some others like to remind their recruits that they were the boss, and I don't think you have to do that. They know that you are the one evaluating them, so you don't have to remind them of that at all.

KC: You said you wanted to be a Use of Force instructor. If you were doing this as early as just three years on, how did you develop your style and how do you teach Use of Force?

LR: Well, there's a number of things that you do. There's a lot of Use of Force instructors. You work as a team. Sometimes you just take a particular area of expertise and you teach it. It just depends on whether or not you're teaching an academy, which of course they're soaking it all up, versus some seasoned veterans who are looking at you like, "Who are you to teach me anything?" But that's just part of the deal. You're just trying to be as honest and forthright as you can be, and they're either going to believe you or not.

KC: Do you remember a time where you very much practiced what you had taught? The continuum of force.

LR: Yes, you practice. And obviously I've always been into firearms, so I always liked doing that.

JR: Because of his size, he was chosen to be Redman quite a bit.

LR: Well, everybody got their turn into that. Especially when you were a brand new Use of Force instructor, you're always getting to be the Redman where you're all padded up and you're getting beat up by people in the class. Everybody gets to do that, especially in the beginning, and then as you get a



little bit older you kind of go away from it because it's not all that much fun. But it's very useful. When you are doing that, it's very useful.

KC: Well, your height?

LR: 6' 2".

KC: Tom Walsh talks about—because Tom Walsh is probably 5' 10". He's a little guy, and that he would have to use his police voice.

LR: Yes.

KC: Did you have to use your police voice as much at 6' 2"?

LR: You still do. In light of the way things are with body mics and all that, I don't know if I could do the job now, because half of my command presence was profanity. I mean, you got to talk to people like they're used to being talked to and the way they talk. Sir and ma'am on midnights, saying that is just not going to cut it. They'll eat you alive.

JR: Swearing is a second language skill for Lyle. [all laugh]

LR: Yeah.

KC: So give me an example on midnights. You're going into a call, a domestic, and you want to get their attention.

LR: Yeah, you just start yelling it out and they —

KC: You can do this.

LR: No, I can't.

KC: You don't have to raise your voice, but—[all laugh]

LR: I don't think I can.

JR: When you took that guy to detox and you were in the elevator and he looks up at you and he's like, "You're a big son of a bitch, aren't you?" [laughs]

LR: Yeah, I think, yeah. And then I said, "Yeah, but I'm dumb, too" to him. Yeah, you have to—it's real simple. You're the police officer. They're looking for you to make the decision. You go to a domestic with people who could be old enough to be your parents, and they're expecting you to tell them what to do. "Okay, well, you go into that room over there and you close the door. You sleep on that couch, and wait until the morning. And don't make me come back. Otherwise, something very bad is going to happen." "Okay," and they do it, for the most time. There's others who never get it.

KC: Julia, how many years were you in Records?

JR: Twenty-three. Twenty-three, and that's kind of unusual because usually Records is like the stepping stone to other units. And I did have a brief time where—I think my first full time job was with Judy Howard²⁷ in Timekeeping, and then I went back to Records. I don't know why. [laughs] But yeah, twenty-three years.

KC: Well, and in Records you've got all the different shifts of all the different days of the week.

²⁷ **Judith Anne Howard** was appointed Clerk Typist I June 20, 1955; promoted Clerk II February 20, 1971; Clerk III July 19, 1971; Payroll Supervisor I May 7, 1975; Payroll Supervisor II, October 26, 1981; and retired August 30, 1991.



Toni Koppy, Julia, and another
weekend Records staff person
on roof of Public Safety Building. c. 1991

JR: You do. And when I became a review officer I wanted to make a difference, because everybody kind of looks down on Records or takes it for granted. They're always pulling people out of Records to go and supplement other units and things, and it just kind of felt like you were the nothing unit. So when I started on days as a review officer, I called each and every person into an office and I said, "What's the problem in Records and how can we fix this?" Every single person said, "I do all the work and nobody else does anything." [laughs] So I'm like, problem solved. [all laugh] And I think to this day, there's still issues in Records. And I think with any unit that is seven days a week, twenty-four hours a day, you're going to have issues, but I enjoyed it.

KC: What does a review officer do?

JR: A review officer reviews all the reports and makes sure that they're meeting the UCR [Uniform Crime Reporting] standards of coding them for statistical purposes. You have like a burglary—you could code a burglary like six different ways—as a daytime, nighttime, occupied, unoccupied, and each one has a different code. So in any given shift, you would be reading a good hundred

reports and coding them and supervising all the people and helping the counter and getting the phones. So it was an incredible job. It was very fast-paced, and I think I did fairly well as a supervisor there. I kind of enjoyed supervising, kind of had a mentoring type of style for supervising.

When I was in the chief's office, the other schedulers in the city, we all created a group called the SHIT Club and it stood for Schedulers Have Issues Too. [all laugh] And we would meet at Joseph's for happy hour. And the first meeting that we had, it was like looking around that table, I had supervised most of those people, like Chris Rider²⁸ [mayor's office], Lauri Woolstencroft²⁹ [assistant chief's office], Angie Steinberg³⁰ [sheriff and chief office], a lot of the schedulers who had gone to other departments in the city. So it was kind of humbling to see that they've gone on and done so well.

Julia Rust,
Chris Rider,
Lauri Woolstencroft
Blue Nite Gala 2014



²⁸ **Christine Helen Rider** was appointed Clerk Stenographer I January 26, 1987; promoted Clerk Typist II June 9, 1988; transferred out to new position in City Council Research April 14, 1989.

²⁹ **Lauri Anne Woolstencroft** was appointed Clerk Typist I September 10, 1984; promoted Clerk Typist II May 24, 1986; Clerk Typist III January 13, 1990; transferred out to new position in City Finance July 2, 1999; transferred back as an Executive Assistant I January 13, 2007.

³⁰ **Angela Catherine Steenberg** was appointed Temp. Clerk Typist I on September 10, 1987; certified as Clerk Typist I on December 5, 1988; certified as Clerk Typist III on February 22, 1993; certified as Secretary on April 30, 1996; certified as Executive Assistant I on July 22, 2006; certified as Executive Assistant II on July 28, 2012.

KC: So the review officer is the supervisor for the unit.

JR: Correct.

KC: When you became a review officer, did you have to work all the different shifts too?

JR: I did. Well, you worked a shift, but you had to work rotating days off. So you worked just like the day shift or afternoons or midnight, but you'd have to work weekends, too. I've worked every shift in there. Started out with weekends, midnights, and then graduated on to the day shifts, the glory days where everything is so chaotic and busy.

KC: For twenty-three years.

JR: Twenty-three years. And then the only reason I wanted to get out was because, you know, it's obviously very stressful supervising people. And at that time our oldest two were getting to be teenagers and having some difficulties—you know, the teenage difficulties. [all laugh] And I just couldn't take supervising people all day long, dealing with their problems and the issues with the people at the counter, and then going home and to have to deal with more issues at home. So I always said that's when I became visible and Chief Finney³¹ said, "Well, come on to my office." [all laugh]

KC: So you went to the chief's office then.

³¹ **William "Corky" Kelso Finney** appointed patrolman January 4, 1971; promoted to sergeant April 1 1978; the first Black male promoted to lieutenant March 8, 1982; captain February 23, 1987; and Saint Paul's first Black chief July 17, 1992; and retired June 30, 2004.

JR: I did. I did. It was a Clerk III position there, but I was a Clerk IV, so they were looking for somebody and nobody was applying for it, and I think I had asked to be transferred to the Comm Center [Communication Center] — like that's better than a review officer. [all laugh]

LR: Yeah, really.



Christmas Fun
Amy Brown, Julia Rust, Rita Burch, Angie Steenberg,
Chief Wm Finney

JR: But I had passed number one of the test, but they didn't have any openings or something. But because I then had become visible, look at me. He's like, "Well, just come on here. I have this opening here." So there I went.

KC: So how long did you work in the chief's office?

LR: You know, I think it was like eighteen months. When you're a review officer or you work in Records, you only know the computer programs that deal with a report, like how to enter them into the system. You don't know how to do Word or Excel or any of those other programs. So I went to the chief's office and I did

not even know how to write a letter in Word. So Rich Oesterreich,³² who was an inspector at the time, he took me under his wing and he taught me everything I needed to know to succeed there. So I worked there for him for eighteen months. And then Mary Zupfer³³ was retiring, so I went to Personnel.

KC: So from '77 to 2012, you were there for O'Brien³⁴'s death and Jones³⁵ and Ryan³⁶ and Vick's³⁷ funerals?

JR: There were a few others who had committed suicide.

KC: What's it like being part of the family and yet you don't get to stand in the honor guard? You're in the family and yet maybe a second cousin? Or does it feel that way?

JR: No. You know, I think that other civilians have expressed feeling like civilians were slighted. I never felt that way. I never felt like I wasn't part of the family. I

³² **Richard William Oesterreich** was appointed police officer January 30, 1984; promoted to sergeant May 22, 1999.

³³ **Mary Margaret Zupfer** was appointed Clerk Stenographer I October 16, 1964; promoted Clerk Typist II May 18, 1966; Clerk Stenographer II December 16, 1967; Clerk Typist III November 6, 1971; Clerk Stenographer III April 4, 1973; voluntary demoted to Clerk Typist II April 3, 1977; Clerk Stenographer II January 25, 1986; Clerk Typist III May 7, 1988; Clerk IV July 18, 1998; and retired December 15, 2000.

³⁴ **John J. "Dude" O'Brien** was appointed patrolman October 26, 1971, and fatally injured when his patrol car was struck by a vehicle that had fled another patrol car April 16, 1981.

³⁵ **Timothy J. Jones** was appointed police officer October 31, 1978; fatally injured by gunfire while searching for the suspect of Officer Ron Ryan's murder August 26, 1994.

³⁶ **Ronald Michael Ryan, Jr.** was appointed police officer January 23, 1993; fatally injured by gunfire while responding to a "slumper" call August 26, 1994.

³⁷ **Gerald Dennis Vick** appointed police officer September 18, 1989, promoted to sergeant July 31, 1999; fatally injured by gunfire May 6, 2005. Received the Medal of Valor 1991, 1997, and 2005.

never felt like I was looking in through the window. I think when you work in Records, you get to know so many of the street officers, from bringing the reports in or they stop in to chat or they have buck slips³⁸ and you have to help them. And then we were—like at the Vick funeral, I was in Personnel at the time, so Mary Nash and I worked closely with the family and just set everything up. And the civilians, I mean, we would go to meetings all the time and the civilians were included all the time. So to answer your question, I never felt like civilians were slighted or like second cousins or a red-headed stepchild, anything.

KC: Was that because of your style and how you put yourself out there, or do you think it's the rarity where someone feels that they're not quite included enough?

JR: I don't know. I'd like to say it's the rarity that other civilians might not feel included. And it's also maybe how you put yourself out there. I was on committees—you know, like the committee for the funeral, and wrote all the thank you letters to everybody. I think if you just put yourself out there and get involved—of course, I was taking photos by then, too, so you're kind of like the department mascot. [all laugh] "Oh, yeah, let's bring her along." You know, I

³⁸ A **buck slip** is a report rejection notice to officers that something needed to be changed or completed on a report they previously submitted.

even went with the SWAT team at Y2K—[New Year's Eve 1999 to 2000],³⁹ road around the city taking pictures.

LR: She loves men in uniform. [all laugh]

JR: What's not to like about sweaty men in uniforms? [all laugh] So yeah, I've been fortunate. I consider myself fortunate that I have been included. And perhaps it's because I'm married to Lyle, too, that I'm included so much more.

KC: What year were you married?

JR: 1993.

KC: So you'd been on for twenty years when you got married.

³⁹ **Y2K** is a numeronym and was the common abbreviation for the year 2000 software problem. The abbreviation combines the letter Y for "year", and K for the SI unit prefix kilo meaning 1000; hence, 2K signifies 2000. In 1999, everyone was anticipating the arrival of the new millennium. January 1, 2000 was the day that our entire lives were going to be changed. The fear was that all of the computers that everyone depended on would malfunction. People also feared that our luxuries would be destroyed and that we would revert back to living like the olden days without any electricity, heat, or running water. They called this the great Y2K scare. The scare consisted of the fear that the entire computer systems were going to fail on New Year's Eve 1999. This is because computer memory space was pricey then, and memory was saved by using two digits for the date instead four. For example, a date representing 1995 would be saved as "95." Therefore, when the year changed to 2000, the disaster that was anticipated by so many was that the computers would not be able to tell if "00" meant 2000 or 1900. Some problems with the dates were already occurring before the millennium. Therefore, people assumed that all of the world's computers would fail to function. In other words, people saw the new millennium as the apocalypse. They feared that the end of the world was near. Moreover, before the date changed, government systems prepared themselves for this change. When the clocks and calendars did actually change to the year 2000, computers barely had any problems. Although there were some reports of minor problems, the majority of computers did alright. Furthermore, the total global cost to resolve the "Y2K disaster" is estimated to cost an outstanding amount of \$300-\$600 billion. Although some people suggested that the attempts to prepare for the disaster are what saved humanity, others argue that the whole thing was blown out of proportion and that the next time a real catastrophe might happen, people will ignore it because they'll think it's a false alarm. The Y2K problem was not limited to computers running conventional software, however. Many devices containing a computer chip, ranging from elevators to temperature control systems in commercial buildings to medical equipment, were believed to be at risk, which necessitated the checking of these "embedded systems" for sensitivity to calendar dates. Security, banking and world travel were thought to be affected and there was a strong fear that chaos, looting and rioting would take place.

LR: Wow.

JR: Wow. He used me. [all laugh] I often wondered if he passed his psych test because of the three boys. Really? You're going to take on a woman with three boys? Now I hear you took it twice? [all laugh] Oh, funny.

KC: Three extra people to love you.

LR: Exactly.

JR: And they do. And they do.

KC: What's Y2K?

JR: Oh, what was that, 2000, when we switched over?

KC: Oh, that midnight thing when everybody had to work and —

JR: Yes, the midnight thing. And the biggest thing we did was blow a fuse from too many crockpots going in the Homicide Unit. [all laugh] It was like the only glitch that happened. But they spent enough money preparing, so it's good to be prepared.

KC: Were you involved in that preparing?

JR: Who was it—was it Gardell⁴⁰ who was like in charge of all that?

KC: Did they really think there would be a problem?

JR: Without a doubt.

⁴⁰ **Richard James Gardell** was appointed police officer September 8, 1975; promoted to sergeant July 7, 1983; lieutenant February 23, 1987; commander January 3, 1998; assistant chief November 4, 2000; reinstated senior commander July 3, 2004; and retired June 30, 2006.

LR: Oh, yes. Everybody did.

JR: Oh, without a doubt. Without a doubt. The whole world did, didn't they?

LR: Yeah.

KC: Yeah, because I know no officers were allowed to have vacation and everybody had to work twenty-four hours.

LR: I thought it was a very good plan.

JR: It was.

LR: I mean, if the shit would have hit the fan, we would have been as ready as anybody. Fortunately nothing happened.

KC: [Why was that such a big deal?

JR: So Assistant Chief Richard Gardell devised a Y2K plan for the Saint Paul Police Department. He actually received a Chief's Award for his good work on the project.] What did happen that night for you?

LR: Well, the streets were very quiet. Everybody just stayed at home and was hoping nothing would happen, so Julia just got to ride around with the SWAT team. I think one of the biggest calls was one on the West Side where they were talking about the Homeboys. Three brothers who were members of that got into it with who at least at one time was the leader of the Homeboys. This guy had already been in prison for murder before and they got into a pissing contest, so the leader shot the three brothers and another friend held the leader down and shot him in the head with a .45 and shot him in the stomach with a .45.

JR: Wow.

LR: So a bunch of us get there and you see the three brothers—they're not shot seriously, and the guy, Jeff Salas, is laying there with a hole in his head and a bullet in his stomach. I thought he was going to die, but he wasn't dying. In fact, the bullet went around the skull, it didn't penetrate the skull.

KC: Hard head.

LR: But he was pretty lively. I had to put handcuffs on him so that the paramedics could work on him, because he was fighting the paramedics off. So he lived to serve time.

KC: For shooting the three. And the guy that shot him?

LR: Pete Estrada? I think they claimed it was self-defense or whatever. I mean, nothing happened to him.

JR: Just another night on the West Side. [all laugh]

LR: Sometimes. But I think that was about one of the few significant events of that night.

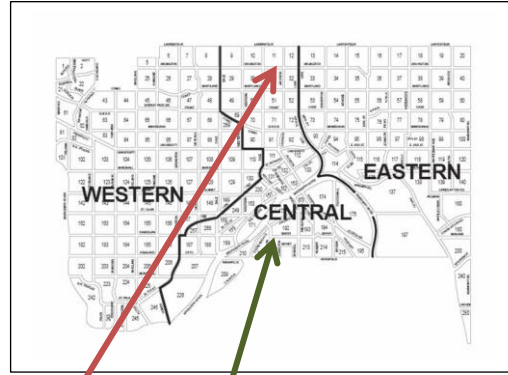
KC: Now, I think you worked most of your career in Central district.

LR: Yes.

JR: We tend to stick, don't we?

LR: Yeah, yeah. I mean, the other districts were great. People were very busy working The Hill⁴¹ or working the East Side, but I don't know, I just liked Central.

⁴¹ **Cathedral Hill Neighborhood** is (roughly from the John Ireland west to Lexington, between I-94 [Old Rondo] to Summit Avenue.



KC: But it's a long, narrow [district].

LR: Yes.

KC: It would be hard to be on the north end if something's happening on the West Side.

LR: Yeah. I primarily worked the West Side. That was most of the time that I worked, but you had a little bit of everything. You had the downtown, you had Rice Street, and obviously the West Side. So it was diverse enough for me.

KC: Was it three different cultures in some ways?

LR: For sure probably Rice Street and the West Side were different. And that evolved, too, through the years.

KC: And you know the best place to get Mexican food in town [since the West Side is the heart of the Mexican community in Saint Paul].

LR: You know, the problem was that I'm not a huge fan of Mexican food.

KC: Oh, no?

LR: I like the tacos, the burritos. And yes, the Mexican food is fantastic down there, but it was something that I was not a huge fan of, unfortunately.

KC: Do you speak Spanish?

LR: No. I do know when people are swearing at me in Spanish though. [all laugh]

KC: And you swear back to them.

JR: I think he knows a few words. [all laugh]

KC: Did that make a difference?

LR: I really can't say that it did, unless from an officer safety perspective it would have behooved me for sure, not just in that respect, to be able to communicate with people more. I guess I was able to get the job done without having that ability.

KC: Do you have a memory of a time where [it would have been to your advantage to speak Spanish]?

LR: Oh, sure, there were times when you needed a family member or somebody to interpret for you, but we were able to get it done.

KC: Tell me a story about working the West Side.

JR: A Pete story.

LR: Well, this didn't happen with me, but my partner Peter Renteria⁴²—this is after we had—I think I was working the skyway at the time, but Pete was trying to do a traffic stop on this guy named Adrian Telez. Adrian was suicidal at the time and he had a .44 Magnum with him, and when Pete tried to stop him, Pete was shot at four times with a .44 Magnum. Telez starts taking off down the street. Pete got in his car, and it's amazing if you listen to the audiotape. It was as if he's just cruising along, not that he had just been shot at and almost killed. He's putting all the directions out, precisely what happened, and he's cruising down Roberts Street. Armando Abila⁴³ is at his house, and he had heard the gunshots a couple

⁴² **Peter Richard Renteria** was appointed police officer January 7, 1996; and retired December 31, 2014.

⁴³ **Armando Abila-Reyes** was appointed police officer October 28, 1995.

blocks away. I think by virtue—I don't know what his job was at the time, but he had a radio with him, so he puts it on, he's listening to it. So Armando puts a vest on, grabs his gun, gets into his car, and starts taking off and following Pete. They go into West Saint Paul, and this Telez abandons the vehicle, runs into I think a supermarket driveway or something like that, and he's holding the gun to himself. So Pete's there, Armando's there, Craig Gromek,⁴⁴ who was the sergeant at the time, eventually gets there. Craig is also a very seasoned SWAT member at the time, so he's able to cordon off the area. I think a highway patrol officer Scott Trautner was there, too. So they've got this all cordoned off, they've got this guy with a 44-Magnum to his head, and they tried to negotiate with him for several hours before he ends up killing himself. But I just thought it was amazing that Pete in particular was able to just sound like it was just another Sunday drive when he just almost got killed. But it all worked out, except for the bad guy.

KC: Pete comes from a legacy family.⁴⁵

LR: He does. He certainly does.

KC: Without a doubt.

LR: He was a lot of fun to work with. He was one of my partners.

KC: How many years were you guys partners?

LR: I think probably only two, but we'd been friends. I was actually his FTO, and we'd been friends for a lot of years.

⁴⁴ **Craig Joseph Gromek** was appointed police officer September 18, 1989; promoted to sergeant October 23, 1999.

⁴⁵ **Legacy** refers to having family members who previously served for the department.

KC: Didn't he go on and do K-9?

LR: Yes, yes, he did.

KC: I met him at Chief Proetz's⁴⁶ funeral. [Chief Proetz created Saint Pauls' first K-9 unit in 1958. This was only the second K-9 unit in the nation after Baltimore, Maryland. Chief Harrington⁴⁷ had a K-9 officer attend the funeral and burial to honor Chief Proetz, and he attended the funeral as well.]

JR: Now he's got a son going into law enforcement, too.

JR: So the legacy continues.

[LR: One story that I would like to add is when I was working in Central Team on patrol. It was in the late afternoon and a lot of the other squads were tied up so I got sent up in the northern area by Rice Street on a 911 hang up. I was assisted by Errol Johnson. The dispatchers received a call. They called back on the 911 and spoke to a woman who said that she had just slit her wrists and now wanted medical assistance. She had attempted suicide but now wanted medical assistance. She said she was upstairs but was too weak to move. An ambulance stood by but because of policy could not make entry without us making sure it was safe.

⁴⁶ **William F. Proetz** was appointed patrolman March 1, 1937; promoted to sergeant March 16, 1948, detective September 20, 1948, lieutenant December 1949, and chief March 11, 1955; returned to detective lieutenant March 13, 1961; and resigned June 12, 1963.

⁴⁷ **John Mark Harrington** was appointed police officer July 11, 1977; promoted to sergeant September 7, 1983; acting lieutenant January 4, 1997; lieutenant November 1, 1997; title changed to commander January 1, 2000; senior commander July 1, 2000 ; assistant chief May 8, 2004; chief July 1, 2004; and retired June 14, 2010. Elected to the Minnesota State Senate from Saint Paul 2010-2012. Appointed Chief of the Metro Transit Police September 4, 2012.

Errol and I tried all the doors to the house but they were locked. After notifying our supervisor of the situation, we got permission to kick in the door, which I did. We were standing in the kitchen, and there were two dogs in the house. One was a small dog and the other was about an 80-90-pound Rottweiler. The Rottweiler was growling and barring us from making entrance into the living room where the upstairs hallway was. It was very obvious the dog was not going to let us get through. He was doing what he was supposed to be doing. Once again, we called our supervisor and explained the situation, and he told us to do what we had to do. I shot and killed the dog, and the other smaller dog ran like hell down into the basement.

When we got into the living room, one look in the bathroom on that floor was proof that she had attempted suicide because there was blood all over inside. We went upstairs and found her in her bedroom. She was laying there with her arms stretched out and you could see several large cuts made along the veins of both of her arms. She was barely conscious, her breathing was very shallow and we immediately notified the paramedics that they could come in and treat her, which they did. She was transported to the hospital and she survived.

Two days later, my partner Dave Mueller and I got sent up to that area again on a domestic. Basically, it was just a guy and his girlfriend engaged in a verbal argument, and he wanted her out of his house. We offered her a ride to another location which she agreed to do. While talking to her about the situation with her and her boyfriend, she got pretty emotional and said, "This has been a terrible week for me." She went on to state a couple problems that she was having during that week and then added, "And the police killed my dog two days ago." I said, "That was me. I had to do it. I had to shoot your dog to help

your mom out.” I told her I didn’t have any choice, the dog was doing what he had to do – he was trying to protect your mom. But we had to get to her. The girl agreed and started crying. We drove her to the location of her choice and that was the end of the call.

KC: The relationships you have in police work, it is often very complex.]

KC: As a civilian, what were some of the challenges in working with this very, very fast-paced environment where people are stressed out?

JR: Well, I think like the challenges in Records was that on the day shift, when you have seniority, you are going to bid for the day shift and there were a lot of older ladies who had kind of put in their time already, and they don’t want to help people at the counter. That’s like your bread and butter. People are coming to get police reports, accident reports, and nobody wanted to, like, get up there and help them. So that was kind of the most frustrating thing. and I don’t like conflict that much, [all laugh] so it was kind of like get off your ass and do this kind of thing. But that was probably the most challenging to supervise people who are old enough to be your mother and they just don’t want to do it anymore. So they’re like pretending they don’t see people or not really getting the phones.



Records staff at the Public Safety Building at 101 E. 10th Street

c. 197?

And again, the frustrating thing would be like when people were taking the clerks out of Records when you're already short. They don't care that there's people standing five deep at counter, and [they] take them to other units to answer their phones or whatever. So when I was working for Chief Harrington and we needed people to come to sit in our office to answer phones during the lunch hour and I would never take from Records. I took from all the other units. [all laugh] I left Records alone.

KC: Were there surprises when you went into Personnel?

JR: Surprises. Mary Zupfer was the most incredible woman ever to follow in a job. She had a bible for me and just listed in detail—I always said how there were

little footprints all over the office, and all I had to do was dance around in those footprints and I got the job.



Mary Zupfer and Linda Wilson

But Personnel is a huge job. It took me a good year I think before I felt like I got it, where I didn't have to look at the bible anymore, because you were doing daily tasks, you were doing weekly tasks, monthly, quarterly, annually. So it's like trying to remember, all right, how does that monthly report go? And all right, well, here's a big frustration. [laughs] So you have somebody maybe who worked in the chief's office who would always be like, "I need this now. I need this now! I need these statistics! I need this data!" Or, "Get me this! Get me that!" And that was a little frustrating.

KC: Well, and you were there when it still needed to be a sworn officer who was in charge.

JR: I was, yep.

KC: Which I always had the illusion that the sworn officer was the figurehead and that the people that worked there ran the department. I could be wrong. [laughs]

JR: No. I think that's kind of true with most civilian positions is that you never really know how much they do—how much behind the scenes things that they do to make the whole department run. Police officers on the street can arrest all the people they want, but unless they have people who are reading the reports, processing the reports for court, getting everything on time, getting the cops paid. There's all these things that civilians do that nobody really thinks about until it's not done. You know like, "Oh, I didn't get my check." [laughs] You know, that kind of thing. So I think civilians are kind of like unsung heroes in the department. They kind of like make it happen.

KC: Does Command staff get that?

JR: I hope they do.

KC: Do rookies get that?

JR: Well, I can't really say. I think rookies are so intent on the street that I don't know if they would get it. I think Command would get it more than street cops, don't you?

LR: Yeah.

JR: But who knows?

KC: And then you got tapped to go to the chief because you went from Personnel to the chief's office.

JR: Mm-hmm. I did. I did. God bless Carole Yoswa.⁴⁸ She had the faith in me. She saw something in me, and for as long [Chief] John [Harrington] and I have worked at the department, we never worked together until I went to the chief's office. So we didn't know each other's styles. I didn't really know anything about him, other than sometimes people called him the nutty professor. I didn't know him when he worked in Training. I know he worked with Angie there, but Carole thought I would be a good fit with him, and so yeah, he chose me. I passed the test luckily.

KC: In his oral history, he said he had to fight the some organization, maybe the union to get you because somehow it wasn't protocol.

JR: I think there was something like that.

LR: Pay grade, right? Something with the pay grade?

JR: I can't remember.

LR: Yeah, something like that.

JR: I can't remember.

⁴⁸ **Carole J. Harren Yoswa** was hired as a clerk typist November 22, 1971 in the mayor's office; transferred to the Bureau of Police June 4, 1973; promoted to clerk steno 1974; secretary-stenographer 1986; coordinator of administration support; title change to Executive Assistant I July 2006; and retired March 30, 2007.

JR: I think there was like another person who kind of grieved it or something? Someone might have grieved it because I went there first and then they gave the test. So it was kind of like oh, here's a done deal, she's there. But I had to pass the test, and I had to pass it, like, the top three. So we took the test, and luckily I passed number one. [all laugh]

KC: Civil service test.

JR: Yes. For Executive Assistant II.

KC: Oh. So this is a pay jump.

JR: And actually, I was on the Executive Assistant I list. Nancy Diperna had an opening and I was going to interview for that position, and she's like, "Oh, we're not taking you. You're going to work for the chief." [all laugh] I was like, "Well, that's news to me."

KC: Well, as a citizen of Saint Paul, I observed that the public relations out of the chief's office changed significantly when you became the chief's assistant.

JR: Really?

KC: Oh, yeah.



Chief John Harrington, Julia Rust, and Officer Lyle Rust
at Julia's promotion to Executive Assistant II in 2007

JR: Well, I've always been impressed with John that he actually took a chance with me, because I didn't know thing one about being an Executive Assistant. I didn't know how to schedule. I didn't know anything. It was kind of like when I went to work for Finney, I didn't know anything. [laughs]

LR: Carole helped you out with that, too.

JR: Carole helped me out quite a bit, but John was so patient. So patient. I would schedule him and not allow him, like, travel time. [all laugh] Okay, from Saint Paul to Minneapolis, you have to be there, like, now. Or one time, I scheduled, like, this big budget meeting and I forgot to invite the mayor. [all laugh] What? I have to, like, call the mayor's office?

Luckily, this is where like being friends with all of these schedulers, you're like, "Chris, help me!" And she got him there. I've been very fortunate with the people that I work with. I like to think that I respect people and I treat them like I would want to be treated. So again, it's the mentoring type of coaching style that I have, so I never had too much problem with people that I worked with.



2011 weekend up north at Sleepy Hollow and Banning State Park

Julia Rust, Executive Assistant to Chiefs Harrington and Smith; Brenna Atz, Ramsey County Sheriff Bostrom's Executive Assistant, Executive Assistant to SPPD AC Bostrom; Angie Steenberg Executive Assistant to Chiefs Finney and Smith, Ramsey County Sheriff Fletcher, and AC Kathy Wuorinen; Lauri Woolstencroft, Executive Assistant to Assistant Chiefs Rob Thomasser and Bill Martinez; and Chris Rider, Mayor Coleman's scheduler.

KC: What was a challenge in the chief's office that you hadn't been aware of as a civilian employee?

JR: I worked for Chief Finney's office, so now I'm working with Harrington, and I'm in a whole different position now. Like you say, it's the gatekeeper. And what was the sign I bought and put outside the door? Nobody gets to see—

LR: Wizard of Oz.

JR: Nobody Gets In To See The Wizard, Not Nobody, Not No How. [laughs] From the Wizard of Oz.



First thing I did when I got in there was take away the visiting chair from the front of my desk, so people had to stand and state your business and move on.

LR: Otherwise, you wouldn't be able to get anything done.

JR: You would never be able to get anything done. I think I brought tasks with me from Personnel, because I was afraid I wouldn't have enough to do. [all laugh] That was mistake number one. And I think trying to make everybody happy. You can't do that. But everybody has an emergency. Everybody has to see the chief *now*. And I bought into that for a little bit, but not after a while. Then it was hard to interrupt a meeting, because I'm kind of shy. Nobody believes that, but I really am. [all laugh]

KC: Shy chief, shy assistant. [all laugh]

JR: So to have to knock on the door when he's in a meeting with a bunch of people and say, "Time's up, people, move on. He's got to be someplace else." So that was hard to do.

KC: And I would imagine he needed you to do that.

JR: He did. He did. Definitely. And I think he was always relieved to have, "Oop, there's that bitch telling me to move it." [laughs] So I'm sure that he was relieved. He didn't have to be the bad guy. I think in that position you take on the role of kind of the hard-nosed bad guy. You've got to make sure everything gets done, make sure he has everything he needs.

KC: Now, you referred to starting to take pictures. Where were you when you started to take pictures? Was that out of Records or out of—

JR: No, not in Records. No time in Records.

KC: Personnel?

JR: It was actually when I was in the chief's office is when the seed was planted because I would see Larry Nevin⁴⁹ and Joe Polski⁵⁰ come in to promotion ceremonies, and they would be taking pictures and I'm like, hmm, I could do that. [all laugh] Mr. Rust gave me my first 35-millimeter camera on what—our first anniversary?

LR: Yes.

⁴⁹ **Lawrence James Nevin** was appointed police officer March 23, 1970; retired November 30, 1998.

⁵⁰ **Joseph Peter Polski** was appointed patrolman January 16, 1967; promoted to sergeant March 6, 1971; lieutenant November 10, 1987; commander November 1, 1997; and retired December 30, 1997.

JR: Yeah, I think I took like one hundred pictures of deer [all laugh] in one day. In one day. Like right outside.

KC: It was a good gift.

JR: It was. I blame him. So then I kind of—you know, the price was right [laughs] and I was willing, so I started taking pictures, like, at every event. And that takes a toll on, of course, your job. You're not there. So that was kind of good and bad, but boy, the experiences I've had are tremendous. But it's hard, again, because you're still shy and you have to, like, tell people what to do, how to pose.

And John [Harrington] hates his picture taken, I'm sure you know, and so, oh, my gosh, like, look at me! I'm not going away until you look at me. So I would take pictures at K-9 graduations, the mounted, the recruit classes up at the capitol and the memorial site. All the police memorial events, all the medal of valors, everything. I'd have to organize those dinners, those luncheons, and then take pictures there. SWAT training—best ever. [all laugh] Sweaty men in uniforms. [all laugh] Oh, and like the recruit training, they would be repelling off of the fire tower. I got to be, like, right on the top, getting the fear in their eyes.

KC: Woo!

JR: Yeah, it was great. It was great. And recruit graduations are always the best. But there again, you're standing up on stage. So I had to fight that shyness all the time and tell the mayor, "You stand here," the chief, "You stand there." I think when I switched to digital was at a recruit graduation when everybody's waiting and shooting film and I pulled the leader out too far and it wouldn't catch, so I'm like, "I need another role of film. So the crowd is waiting, you know, and then it's

like, I'm going to digital. [laughs] You don't have to change film in front of everybody.

KC: So you have to buy your own camera or they buy you a camera?

JR: I used my own. I just feel comfortable with how it works, and I just like to use my own, even with the [Saint Paul Police] Federation. I still take a lot of pictures and I just bring my own camera all the time. That was my retirement gift to myself. I bought myself a two-thousand-dollar camera, which is probably obsolete by now.

LR: Yeah.

KC: Where did you end up taking pictures that put you in a situation that was uncomfortable, other than the shyness?

JR: Police memorials. Police memorials because I felt intrusive, you know, taking pictures of Ron Ryan and Kelly [parents of Officer Ron Ryan, Jr., who was murdered August 26, 1994]. Like the tenth anniversary? And they were as sad as they were on the day it happened. So Kelly's sitting there with a granddaughter on her lap, and Ron is standing in uniform and saluting, and it's like it was a great picture, but I felt really intrusive, kind of like a reporter: "Well, how do you feel about your family dying?"



And Saint Paul to the Wall when the Lynaugh family, when Josh's⁵¹ name was put on the Law Enforcement Memorial Wall⁵² in D.C. and the [Saint Paul Police] Federation gave me this trip to go with, so I said I would take pictures. I know [retired officer] Tim Lynaugh⁵³ very well. I didn't know Josh that well, and I didn't know Lori at all until then. Great, great family, but I talked to them beforehand, and I said, "You tell me if I'm like in your face too much." And they appreciated everything that I did. I made them a Shutterfly book on the different events. So that was probably one of the most meaningful things.

KC: And that was after you retired.

JR: It was when I was working with the Federation, yep, in 2013.

KC: Did you know you were going to Federation when you retired from the chief's office?

JR: Nope. We'd been retired a year and—

LR: Well, only six months before he got ahold of you though.

⁵¹ **Joshua Phillip Lynaugh** was appointed police officer October 1, 2007; died February 16, 2013, from a heart attack following an on-duty foot chase.

⁵² The **National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial** in Washington, D.C. at Judiciary Square, honors U.S. law enforcement officers who have died in the line of duty throughout history. The mission of the National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial Fund is to generate increased public support for the law enforcement profession by permanently recording and appropriately commemorating the service and sacrifice of law enforcement officers; and to provide information that will help promote law enforcement safety.

⁵³ **Timothy Phillip Lynaugh** was appointed police officer March 3, 1989; promoted to sergeant October 4, 2008; and retired August 30, 2012.

JR: Yeah, I didn't do well with not having something to do. [all laugh]

LR: Me, on the other hand...

JR: I mean, you'd get up and you'd do, like, one thing. You might go to Cub, and it'd be like, woo. [all laugh] So Dave [Titus⁵⁴] called up and offered me this position as Office Manager. And from working in the chief's office for so long and Personnel, it was kind of awkward. [laughs] It was kind of going from the prosecutors to the defense, you know? So I had to think about it for a little while. I think I thought about for a couple of days and it's like —

LR: I encouraged her to do it. I thought it was a very good thing.

JR: Well, yes. Yep, and he was obviously a Federation member. And the thing is, none of this is personal. Everybody's just doing their job. The chief's office, they're just doing their job.

IA [Internal Affairs], they're just doing their job. The Federation is just doing their job. So I'm just like, just do your job. [all laugh] So I started there and gosh, they made me an honorary police officer. I don't know if you know that.



Federation President Dave Titus and
Honorary Police Officer Julia Rust, 2014

⁵⁴ **David Allen Titus** police officer May 2, 1994. President of the Saint Paul Police Federation September 2001-present.

KC: No!

LR: Yeah, it was great.

JR: Yeah, I know! Huge wow!

KC: How many honorary police officers do they have?

JR: Oh, gosh, they usually do community leaders, members who do things for the police, to support the police. I think that day—what did we have? I want to say like six or seven, yeah.

KC: So this is a Federation thing, not a department thing.

JR: Federation thing, yep.

KC: Wow.

JR: Yeah, got a huge plaque. I took pictures there. [all laugh] Lyle came up and took pictures when I got it.

KC: Very cool.

JR: Yeah. So it's a very interesting job. I do, like, everything. We had to fix up the building when we purchased it. We had to make a meeting room in the basement and [retired Officer] Tim Bradley⁵⁵ did a lot of the work. Oh, my God, we took so many trips to Menards to get lumber. I was hauling lumber, helping him build the deck. I was there when we built the deck. And in the basement we had to, like, knock down—I didn't help knock down the walls or anything, but just

⁵⁵ **Timothy Robert Bradley** was appointed police officer September 8, 1975; retired January 28, 2011. Awarded the Medal of Valor July 7, 1996; Medal of Merit Class B on November 10, 1989 and November 6, 1997; and a Class C Medal of Commendation June 12, 1987 and July 8, 2004; Saint Paul Officer of the Year in 2001 and 1996 with partner Lucia Wroblewski.

helping with painting the whole place. Even Lyle—we were getting ready for an open house or our grand opening and oh, my gosh, we were working, like, twelve hour days, painting. And Lyle showed up to help paint and I just, like, started to cry. [all laugh] Oh, thank God! Somebody came to help!

KC: Well, there's this gorgeous bar down there that Timmy designed. He had a vision.

JR: He did. And Dave just let him go. Yeah, it's been really, really great. It almost takes you back to your roots a little bit, you know, when you worked in Records and you knew the younger cops. Here, you're getting to know the street cops again. I mean, seriously, I was afraid that a lot of the officers wouldn't trust me because I worked in the Chief's office, so I'd be, like, the enemy. But I didn't get that at all. And again, you talk about civilians being slighted. No. I think they appreciate what is done for them.

KC: Had somebody else had the position?

JR: [all laugh] Well, I don't know who had the position before, but all I know is that when she quit she left a post-it on Dave's door. So sometimes I'll be like, "Don't piss me off or I'll leave a post-it." [all laugh] But that's me just being shy.

KC: I was told that it's because of the straightforward and honest way that you dealt with all the officers that you could go from the chief's office to the Federation very smoothly.

JR: I appreciate that, yep.

KC: Of course [Chief] Harrington said you went to the dark side. [all laugh]

JR: Well, [Federation President] Dave [Titus] would say I came from the dark side.
[all laugh]

LR: Julie's a pro. That's why I knew there wouldn't be any problems. She does a good job regardless of where she's at.

JR: Yeah, because bottom line is, it's for the police. It's for the police officers on the street. That's why we do the job. So I have nothing but support for them. I even have a tattoo.

KC: Oh!

JR: It's dog tags and this symbolizes the six years as a medic in the Army, and then this is, of course, the thirty-six years at the department.

KC: Very cool.

JR: Yeah, thank you.

KC: And you got that after you retired.

JR: I actually got it probably in the last three to six months that I worked there. I used to wear, like, a chunky bracelet, just to cover it a little bit. [laughs] I don't know why.

KC: Sometimes we have to get used to new things.

JR: Yeah, exactly.

KC: Now you guys were married in 2001 when you were involved in a life-saving situation.

JR: Yep, we were married during that time.



LR: Yes.

KC: Can you talk about the life-saving situation you were involved in [in 2001]?

LR: Yeah, I was working the skyway and I had a call from Mike Findley,⁵⁶ who was at that time—Mike and I used to work in the skyway, and he made sergeant, and I think he was in the Homicide division at the time. He told me that there was a warrant out for a woman—I believe



Downtown Beat Officers

c. 2002

her name was Colleen Hoffman, and he said it was just a felony warrant pick-up. Didn't think it would be too much of an issue. She was going to meet one of her psychologists or social workers at the government center at—I think it was 50 West Kellogg, so he didn't think it was going to be that big of a deal. What I didn't know was that the warrant I think was in part because she was stalking her psychiatrist with the intent of killing him, but I didn't know anything about that. I know it was at the end of the day. I was just ready to go home. I was really tired. But anyway, I sat in the lobby waiting for her to come out of the office.

KC: In uniform?

⁵⁶ **Michael Thomas Findley** was appointed police officer March 20, 1989; promoted to sergeant May 17, 1997; and died from cancer May 13, 2008.

LR: In uniform, yeah. Sat there for a while. It was over an hour, and it was on the sixth floor, and you could see people going in and out of this stairwell. There was a lot of activity there. So she pops out, I announce myself, tell her that she's got a warrant. She—wow, immediately pulls out this thick tongue depressor with two X-ACTO blades taped to it, and she kind of advances on me. I pull out my gun and get her to stop. So she stops and then she starts backing in the stairwell. Well, I knew that there was people coming in and out, and I didn't want—whatever was going to happen was going happen right there. So I've got her cornered in the stairwell, and I've got my gun on her, and she's not advancing towards me, otherwise—like what I learned before, I was not going to let anybody with a knife get that close to me again. But fortunately for her, she didn't. So I maced her in face and she immediately started gouging into her arms, six to eight inches with this knife. I mean, she's ripping her arms out. I mean, both arms, and the blood starts flowing. I mean, she's leaking real well.

So I'm going, wow, we're going to have to take care of this. So I put the gun in my holster and I try to take her down to the ground. I get her down on the ground, but this blood is all over. And she's not all that strong, but it's just too slippery. I'm having a tough time, and the mace is kind of starting to affect me, and I've got my hands occupied by grabbing—she's still got the knife in her hand, so the only way I'm able to communicate is by using my chin to press on the mic, calling for assistance. So the cavalry's on the way, and fortunately, one of the security guards—I think he was Jay Behrens—shows up, and I'm telling him, "Do what you got to do. If you got to stomp on her hand to get the knife out, go ahead and do it." He's able to get the knife away, so we get her handcuffed. So that was basically it. We went to the hospital, because I'm all full of blood, she's all full blood—

JR: Kind of the age of AIDS,⁵⁷ wasn't it?

LR: Well, sure, yeah. I think I called Julie up and I just told her that I was going to be tied up for a while. I didn't explain anything to her, because it was a long story and I wanted to get done, but I was gone for like —

JR: Another shift. [laughs]

LR: Almost four or five hours, but hey.

KC: Being cleaned up and checked out in the hospital and then back to writing reports.

LR: Yeah, writing the report, sure.

JR: But it's not like I'm the little woman sitting at home, waiting for her husband, who doesn't know anything.

LR: Yeah, I know, I know. I know.

JR: I mean, I read police reports for twenty-three years, I know what happens, so I was not happy that he just didn't tell me what the situation was, because of course, your imagination is twenty times worse.

LR: Sure.

KC: I'm going to be tied up for a while, and then it's eight hours or ten hours later.

⁵⁷ Acquired immunodeficiency syndrome—**AIDS** was first recognized by the United States Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) in 1981 and its cause—HIV (Human immunodeficiency virus infection) infection—was identified in the early part of the decade. HIV is transmitted by three main routes: sexual contact, exposure to infected body fluids (including blood) or tissues and from mother to child during pregnancy, delivery, or breastfeeding. By 2013, it resulted in about 1.34 million deaths.

LR: Yeah.

JR: Yeah. I'm like, "Well, what's going on? What's going on?"

KC: Did he keep calling and saying it would be a while?

JR: You know, I think he called a couple times.

LR: A couple times, maybe. That was it.

JR: Yeah.

LR: That was the one good thing about the job is I don't have to call her and say, "I'm tied up. I'll be there when I'm there," and she gets it.

JR: Yeah.

LR: She doesn't need anything else. Except for this instance, I probably should have told her. [all laugh]

JR: I think that that's a huge strength that we have in our marriage is that number one, we were both in the military, so when he had to leave for two weeks, no problem, I'll just change something in the house while you're gone, [all laugh] update the house.

LR: Yeah.



Julia and Lyle Rust
1999

JR: But you know, it was like I got the military aspect of it, I got the police aspect of it. He certainly got it when I was stressed out or had to work out of the blue, too, so it was good that we both worked there. We knew the characters, so we were able to vent to each other and things, so it was all good.

LR: Yeah. And obviously, she understood the pressures of job. I didn't have to explain any of that to her. She read the reports. She knows exactly what's going out on the streets, so that made things a lot easier.

KC: You described this instance that is, like, it was no big deal, but I mean, if she has this knife, this was a life-threatening incident.

LR: Um, potentially, yes. Well, again, actions are dictated by the offender, so yeah, she came after me with the knife, and I pulled my weapon out and she stopped. And you could actually see in her eyes, there was some confusion there like, whoa, what am I doing? But had she advanced on me, I would have probably have had to shoot her, but she didn't. She tried to get away, and I was determined to keep her in that stairwell, because if she would have been running, anybody coming up the stairs she could have attacked.

JR: Wasn't it at the end of a workday, so people were leaving, too?

LR: Yeah. Yeah, so again, whatever was going to happen, it was going to happen there.

KC: But you also put your gun away and tried to keep her safe instead of just letting her hurt herself.

LR: Well, I was trying to get that knife away from her, trying to keep me safe, too. [laughs] But you just react to that type and hope it doesn't turn to shit.

KC: What was it like when Finney told you he was giving you a Medal of Valor for that situation?

LR: Well, I pretty amazed. I still don't think I deserve it. I can tell you that a lot of the times really these awards are very arbitrary. There are so many cops that have done incredible things and have not been recognized for it that it's really something sometimes. So I felt very honored to have gotten that. Again, I don't think I deserve it, but I know of a lot of other officers out there that are doing phenomenal things that are not recognized for it. And I think that's a shame. I think people aren't doing it for glory.

They're just doing their jobs and just trying to take care of business, but if these cops do these great things, they should be recognized for it. So I was happy to get it, and it was an honor.



Chief William Finney, Officer Lyle Rust, Mayor Randy Kelley. November 2001



August 30, 2001

Officer Lyle D. Rust

On July 16, 2001, Officer Rust was dispatched to arrest a mentally ill woman. While attempting to apprehend the suspect, she advanced to the officer with a homemade razor knife. Instead of using deadly force in a justified situation, Officer Rust used his Freeze+P. She slashed her arms and continued to threaten him. Officer Rust was able to subdue and arrest the suspect in spite of the large amount of blood on both himself and her.

KC: Julia, Do you think he deserves it?

JR: Without a doubt. Without a doubt.

KC: Because you've read all the reports.

JR: Sure. And again a sharp-edged weapon is very dangerous, because it'll go right through the vest, and when you're in that close proximity—you're in a stairwell, wrestling this bloody woman, yeah, he could have just as easily—it could have turned bad in the blink of an eye.

KC: It cut an artery of yours?

JR: Mm-hmm.

LR: Well, like I said, I was determined to never let anybody get that close to me again, and I learned. If she would have advanced on me, it wouldn't have worked out too well for her.

KC: But once you holstered your gun, she still had the weapon.

LR: She was maced in the face though, and she was—

JR: Fighting the effects.

LR: Yeah, fighting the effects. So I took that chance.

KC: He doesn't take compliments well, does he?

JR: Nope, not at all. [all laugh]

LR: Yeah.

JR: And as a matter of fact, he has put many people in for awards. He put Pete Renteria in for an award for that shooting that he told you about.

LR: Well, for that shooting, yeah. And Armando [Abla-Reyes]. And Craig [Gromek]. I believe Scott Trautner also got an award through that.

JR: Yep, exactly. But otherwise it would have gone unrecognized.

LR: And that's a shame.

JR: Pete Renteria got a Medal of Merit for it. That's the second highest award in the department.



Pete Renteria, Medal of Merit recipient,
with Lyle, March 29, 2002

LR: And I was happy to do it, but it shouldn't have been me. It should have been—

JR: Right, the supervisor.

KC: You're in the chief's office, and you probably know all kinds of confidential things that you can't bring home. He's a street officer, so—

JR: He respected that, because when you work in Personnel, you know just as much. You have access to their Personnel file. You're dealing with the discipline all the time, updating the files, so you pretty much already know everything there is to know about people. That's the part that he gets, you know. Julie's a professional.

LR: Yeah. I mean, even now [with her working for the Saint Paul Police Federation], there's grievances and stuff like that. That's her business.

JR: Right. And I just don't like garbage on people. I don't like to know garbage on people. So when Bostrom asked me one time if I would work in IA, Internal Affairs, I said, "I don't want to. I don't want to know all those things about the people I work with." But no, never an issue. I'm sure there was curiosity, but —

LR: To a certain degree, but I tried to keep that to a minimum.

JR: Yep, without a doubt.

KC: Were there ever times when your schedules were such that it was difficult raising kids?

JR: Sure.

KC: Because both of you were working and nobody could be home.

JR: Yep. We had daycare.

LR: Yeah.

JR: And of course, they were in school. I think Nate was three when we were dating, and I think five when we got married.

LR: For a while there though, our schedules meshed pretty well.

JR: They did. You were on days, yep. Yep, and then we had the daycare, so it worked out fairly well.

KC: So when you got married, you moved out here [to Cottage Grove].

JR: We did, yeah.



1991

LR: That was an adjustment. [all laugh]

JR: Do you think?

LR: See, I'm the only kid in the family.

JR: Yeah, exactly. Is he crazy or what? [all laugh]

LR: But hey, Julie made it easy. I mean, it could have been real tough, but it wasn't. I mean, three kids, never having had kids, but she made it easy.

JR: They looked up to him. The divorce was my idea. The separation was my idea. I don't think that my ex-husband was ready for something like that, so there were, like, loyalty issues with my oldest son.

LR: A natural thing.

JR: Natural. Very natural. Very natural. So I think that they didn't want to like him. And I think Chad, our oldest, once said, "You know, I don't want to sound like a Sally, but we really love Lyle." And again, he brings this, like, even keeledness to the family. I mean, he is what he is. I mean, you can see what he is as he's speaking.

LR: Boring. [all laugh]

JR: So the kids have a lot of fun with him. I've got a picture right here of when they were young. This is, like, one of



Lyle Rust with Nate, Chad, and Matt Wilmes, 1991

my favorites. You heard the train go by, so every time the kids heard the train go by, they would run down the hill to see the train.

LR: Yeah, that novelty wore off.

JR: Yeah, it got old. [all laugh]

KC: Well, and if you dated for a couple years, I'm sure there was plenty of time to—

LR: Yep.

JR: Yes, yes.

KC: So this is a four bedroom house?

JR & LR: Three.

KC: Three bedroom house. So two kids got to share a bedroom.

JR: Yep. Yep.

LR: Yeah.

KC: Great picture.

JR: It was a good picture.

KC: And the dog.

JR: The dog.

LR: That was the first German Shepard.

JR: That was the German Shepard, yeah.

LR: Yep.

KC: So you had a dog and three kids.

JR: It was Allie. Yeah, a big German Shepard. So I'm a single parent, and I don't know if you've heard through people, but I had a heart condition, too.

KC: That one I didn't. [all laugh]

JR: So I had, like, rapid heartbeat. It's called tachycardia. So I wound up having an episode when I was a review officer and when we were dating and wound up going to Regions. So Lyle had to, like, go to my house and crawl through a window to get me, like, clean clothes. And here's this German Shepard who—I don't know why you're letting this big guy crawl through my window.

LR: Yeah, she was conundering quite a bit. [growls]

JR: Oh, what do I do? I think I know him. [all laugh] So that was fun.

KC: Yeah. And that's all resolved or it's just an ongoing thing?

JR: I actually had a heart ablation done when we were dating. So yeah, it was interesting times. So it was an electrical problem, so what they did was they went a couple feeders through the legs and in the chest, and they induced one of those episodes, and then they burned across the path, so that it couldn't make that connection anymore. So knock on wood, I haven't had any issues since the surgery.

KC: Wow.

JR: But I lied about it to get into the military. [all laugh]

KC: Let's see, now [Chief] Harrington said you one of the most honest people.

LR: Yeah, exactly.

JR: Ah! Okay, I didn't lie about it. I just didn't mention it. [all laugh]

KC: And it was never an issue.

JR: No, because if I wasn't having an episode, you could never tell that anything was wrong with me. I just blew that one, didn't I? [all laugh]

KC: Lyle, what other stories do you have to tell me about being on the job?

LR: Well, talking about partners, like I said, I had several. I had Paul Meffert, Pete Renteria, Dave Mueller,⁵⁸ Mike Talley,⁵⁹ Soren Mahowald,⁶⁰ and Mitch Schuck.⁶¹ And I tell you, that made things so much



Lyle and Dave Mueller
2008

more fun, having partners. Officer safety is the more important thing, but when you're in a squad car for eight to ten hours and you got somebody to talk to and you can share, it just made things a lot of fun. There's a movie called *End of Watch*, which is a pretty dramatic movie about the LAPD, but it's pretty realistic when they depict the two partners talking. You do get to know everything about this person. Obviously, if you're sharing what can be dangerous situations with

⁵⁸ **David Richard Mueller** was appointed police officer November 29, 1999; promoted to sergeant November 30, 2007.

⁵⁹ **Michael Everett Talley** was appointed police officer October 7, 1996.

⁶⁰ **Soren Mark Mahowald** was appointed police officer November 29, 1999.

⁶¹ **Mitchell Ray Schuck** was appointed police officer October 7, 1996.

them, it just makes you that much tighter. So I really was blessed with some good people to work with, and I'll never forget that. A lot of us still get together.

KC: Did you ever have a short-term partner where it wasn't a good match?

LR: I really can't say that I did. I teamed up with Ron Jeffery⁶² for a short while, and it wasn't that we didn't get along. We got along. It's just that I think the situation on the street required that there be more single people driving around. That was about the only maybe short-term partner that I had that I can think of. But no, we got along well. It's just that the situation on the street required single squads.

KC: Well, they went from partners to single squads.

LR: For the most part.

KC: The department has done that on and off all through the years.

LR: They do, yeah. Obviously, if you're working two people to a squad, they expect more out of you, expect you to take more calls, and that's as it should be.

KC: So you started with days, you went to midnights. And then did you go back to—

LR: I went to the skyway for one year, then I went back to midnights for, I want to say, three or four years, and then I—what did I all do? I went to the range for two years. That was fun. Fulltime Firearms instructor. I got to work with some great people. Randy Barnett⁶³ was definitely one of the best guys you're ever going to meet in your life. Class act all the way.

⁶² **Ronald Scott Jeffery** was appointed police officer September 18, 1989; promoted to sergeant September 9, 2000.

⁶³ **Randy L. Barnett** was appointed police officer February 23, 1980, and retired May 31, 2011.

KC: So how do you help an officer who really doesn't know much about guns be able to be proficient?

LR: Well, it starts in the academy. I mean, you spend at least one to two weeks learning the firearm, how to handle it, how to shoot it, before you start going to the more advanced techniques. So there's a step-by-step program for getting people to familiarize themselves with shooting and the way we shoot.

KC: Before you came on, the infamous story of [the first woman to go through the academy with the men], Debbie Montgomery, who had never held a gun and was really struggling in the academy. I mean, it was questionable about whether she was going to be able to qualify. How do you get somebody who's just never handled a gun?

LR: You know what? In many respects, the people who have never fired firearms are at an advantage, because they don't have any bad habits. They can be taught step-by-step what they need to know. There's a lot of women that aren't familiar with handguns, and they turn out to be very good shooters, because number one, then they don't have that ego problem that some guys do, and they turn out to be very good shooters.

KC: What do you think made you fall so much in love with handling guns?

LR: Ever since I was a kid I enjoyed firearms. Obviously, TV programs, watching Daniel Boone or whatever. It's just something that I've always enjoyed, and target practice is fun and I hunt. It's just something I've always enjoyed.

KC: Was it challenging to teach your sons to handle guns compared to teaching new officers?

LR: No. No. It was pretty much the same way. Yeah, it wasn't a problem at all. I helped Julie out with handguns, and she's a very good shot.

KC: They all took to the guns right away. Do they all like to shoot?

LR: Yeah, as they've gotten older in particular. Yeah, they're getting into it. Yeah.

JR: They're getting into it more so. Nate kind of always—again, the older two had kind of, like, the loyalty conflict thing, but Nate was so young. They're all, like, three years apart, so Nate was so young that my ex didn't even take him, because it was too hard to take three of them, with him being so young, too. So anyway, Nate probably was the one that we dragged him up North all the time, where the other two would maybe go stay with their dad. And now they're getting into the hunting.

LR: And just the shooting, yeah.

JR: And more so, yeah. And we actually have a house up there now, so we don't, like, live in the garage or have an outhouse. So they're probably a little more willing to come up. [all laugh]

KC: Have you started teaching the grandchildren yet?

LR: Not yet, but you know they're six or seven years old. They can definitely learn the basics. I mean, it doesn't have to be—



Grandson Aidyn visits Papa Lyle
and partner Mitch Schuck, September 13, 2012

JR: And safety.

LR: Yeah, it doesn't have to be a regular firearm. It can be a BB gun. It's just teach them the respect for the weapon. I mean, that's the most important thing. Don't fear it, but you have to certainly respect it.

JR: We do have a rule that if you shoot it, you eat it.

LR: Yeah. Yeah, we're not into just killing stuff.

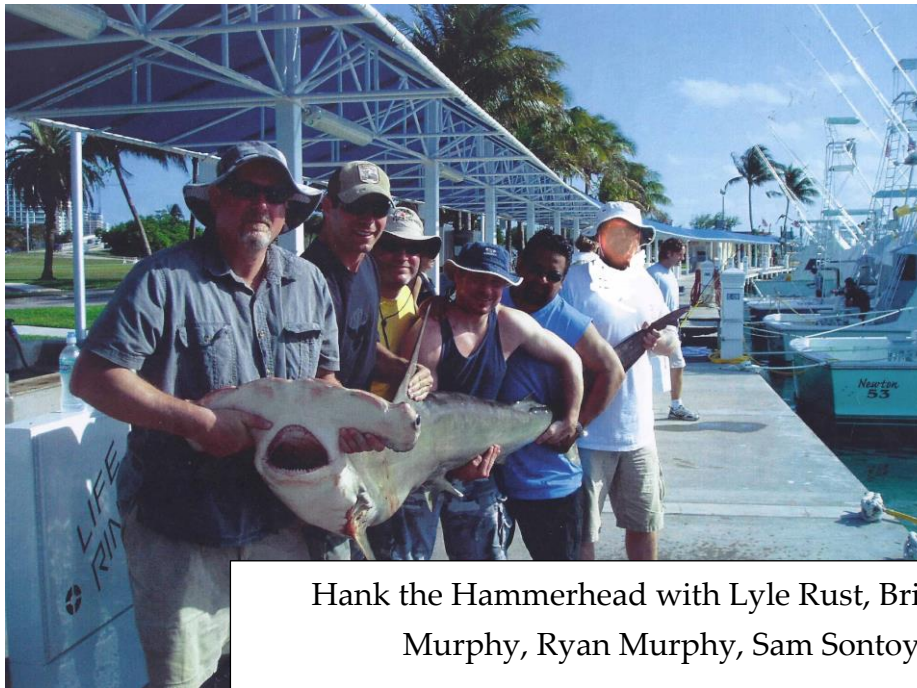
JR: Well, and see, that's the difference with hunting is they call it hunting. I call grocery shopping. [all laugh] So I do fairly well at grocery shopping.

KC: Yeah, because that's a great picture. What other stories do you need to tell me?

LR: Need to tell. Well, about the only other story I could probably talk about would be when I was in the Force Unit, we were fortunate enough to have gone to some tactical training in Florida. It was great training. We were training with one of the SWAT teams down there, and it was on storefront operations. It was a weeklong thing. I had never been to—we went to Miami, so it was a good time. Most of the unit members were down there.

In the middle of the week, fortunately, the guys cut us loose a couple of hours early so that we could go deep sea fishing, something I will never do again probably. So we rented a boat and went out there in the middle of the Bermuda Triangle. We started out with just bare hooks. There's, like, five or six hooks on the fishing pole, and you start catching what we would call minnows, the smaller fish, and then you start hooking them up and you're catching Bonitas and mackerel, which are a lot larger fish. Then you use them to catch larger fish. So

the guide asked us, “What do you want to fish for?” So I think Sam Santoya⁶⁴ and I said, “Well, let’s try shark.” So they rigged up one of the fish that we’d already caught for shark and we went out there. The way it was is that whenever there was a fish on the line, we would rotate in and catch it. Well, when the shark hit, I was up. And I was probably fighting the thing for I want to say at least—it was probably only twenty, twenty-five minutes. But you know, you have the thing in between your legs, and you’re grabbing it with your left hand, and you’re reeling in, and I was getting gassed. I mean, that shark was stripping that line out further and you’re still reeling, but I was tired. I’m not going to lie. Fortunately, the most physically fit person on the department, Brian Hall⁶⁵ was in the boat, and he was able to take the pole, and he fought it for quite a long time, and he was able to land this shark. It was an eight foot, two inch hammerhead shark that—you got the pictures, right?



Hank the Hammerhead with Lyle Rust, Brian Hall, Sean Murphy, Ryan Murphy, Sam Sontoya, ____

⁶⁴ **Samuel Filberto Sontoya** was appointed police officer September 13, 1999.

⁶⁵ **Brian John Hall** was appointed police officer September 8, 1998.

JR: And it was, like, flopping around on the boat and even knocked a chair off of its base.

KC: Oh, my gosh.

LR: Yeah. Yeah, it was amazing. Just incredible to go on this trip to Miami and get this shark.

KC: Oh, yeah.

[Takes out picture]

KC: Oh, wow. [laughs]

LR: So once we landed it—I mean, we'd had a few beers doing this, and the guy asked, "Well, what do you want to do with this shark? Do you want it mounted?" And I'm going, "Well, how much is something like this going to cost?" And the guy goes, "Probably \$1300." And they needed kind of like a decision right at that time. And without consulting my lovely bride here, I said, "Yeah." And all the guys in the boat, "Yeah! Cool! Go!" So I'm thinking, yeah, that's pretty good. I got pretty good credibility with these guys.

JR: With these drunk guys.

LR: But I now I got to make a phone call here. [all laugh] Well, when I called Julie and I told her, she got it right away.

JR: It's a hammerhead for heaven sakes.

LR: I had gone moose hunting, was unsuccessful, and we were planning on mounting the moose head if I ever shot it. And I basically said, "This is my

moose.” But she got it right away. I mean, I would have never thought that I would get a fish like this. So we got it home.

JR: You’re looking around, like, where is it in this small house? [all laugh]

LR: It’s down in the basement.

JR: It’s in the workout room.

LR: Yeah. And basically, it’s a composite stock. It’s got the actual jaws—

JR: And the teeth.

LR: Yeah, and the meat was donated to a restaurant down there, so it didn’t go to waste. But it was something. But it’s kind of funny because whenever I see Brian Hall, I tell him, “Yeah, whenever I tell this story, you were never on the boat.”

JR: You were never on the boat. [all laugh]

LR: And if it wasn’t for him we would have probably never got it.

JR: Our grandkids it’s like for a while there that every time they came, they’re like, “Can we go down and see the big fish?” And then Allie, our granddaughter, she would be like—pretty soon she was in the boat with Papa, helping him catch the big fish. [all laugh]

KC: Awww.



Allie’s three year old
adventure with Papa, 2011

LR: Yeah. So that was an interesting by product of our training. We called it training day with the Force Unit.

KC: So what were some of the assignments that you did on the force unit?

LR: Well, we were executing search warrants, running informants. It was problem properties. People were calling in, "People are dealing dope out of this," so we would get enough probable cause to do search warrants.

KC: Street level drug enforcement.

LR: Yeah. It was very interesting, very rewarding, greatest group of people.



Force Unit

Brian Hall, Sean Murphy, ___, Sam Sontoya, Frank Ortiz, Sgt. Paul Ford,
Ryan Murphy, **Lyle Rust**, Ed O'Donnell, Dave Odlaug, c. 2010

I was fifty years old at the time that I joined this, and most of the people were fifteen years younger than me. So you could say I got some old jokes. I mean, I just become a grandfather and most of these guys had daughters that were six years old.

JR: Same age as our granddaughter. [laughs]

LR: Yeah, something like that. But everybody got ripped. I mean, it went around. It wasn't like I was getting picked on too much.

JR: They put this book together. It's kind of a hoot.

KC: *The Force Years. Who am I and Why am I Here?* [all laugh]

LR: Yeah. A little cruel, huh?

KC: We'll have to put a few of these. [laughter from everyone]

LR: Oh, I could show you which one I think is probably the funniest, but—

JR: Is it, like, the last one?

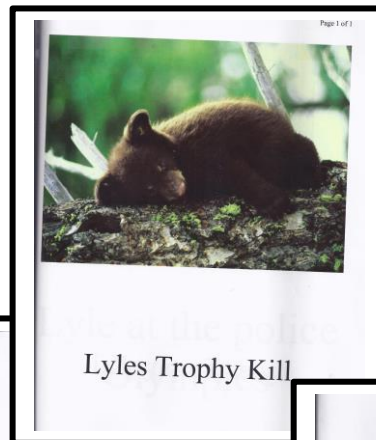
LR: No, that one right there.

JR: This one here? [all laugh] They're cruel. Cruel!

Booklet :

**Lyle Rust Chronicles The Force Years
2008 – 2010**

“Who am I and why am I here?”



LR: They're cruel. But it was a real tight unit we had. We had some good people in there doing good things.

JR: What was that double warrant you did?

LR: Well, yeah, there were a couple notable things. We did a knock and talk. It was actually Sam Sontoya's knock and talk. We usually do a knock and talk when we don't have any clear evidence of drug dealing and you're going to probably close

the property out. So what you do normally is you knock on the door and say, “Hey, here’s the deal. If you got a little weed or you got some drugs, give it to us. We’re not going to arrest you for it. We’re just going to get it out of the house, and we’re going to close this property out.” And we’re not lying. That’s what we do.

Well, down on the West Side, one of Sam’s properties, I was with Ryan Murphy⁶⁶ and Sam, and knock on the door, give them the spiel, and the guy goes, “Okay, just a minute.” And he closes the door. So we’re waiting outside. Well, Ryan Murphy and I are looking in the back, and there’s this other guy that is putting a suitcase on the side of the house. So we think—that’s our big investigative experience—that’s a little weird. [all laugh] So we ran around the house while Sam covered the front door, and saw this guy—the biggest deer in the headlights look in the world. We knew that there was something going on. So Ryan kind of detained him, and I went to where the suitcase was. Didn’t even have to open it up to know what it was. It was marijuana. I mean, you could smell it. It was that strong. So I unzipped the case—bricks of marijuana.

So immediately what you do is you unzip it and you freeze the house. You know, you detain the guys that are in the house until you get a search warrant, which is what we did. It takes a while, but we’re watching the Olympics while we’re doing this in the house. And eventually, we ended up getting, I think it was, either seventy-two or seventy-six pounds of marijuana out of there, two guns, and \$5,000. So that was not a bad day for a knock and talk.

JR: That was good.

⁶⁶ Ryan Murphy was appointed police officer May 14, 2001; promoted to sergeant August 9, 2014.

LR: Somebody had complained that there was dope dealing and drug activity in the house, so you do surveillance, see whether or not that is actually happening. Sometimes it's real apparent. Sometimes it isn't.

KC: So are there judges that are just on-call at different times where somebody goes down, you do the paperwork and get the—

LR: Yep. On-call judges and you just go up to their chambers, and they read the probable cause statements and hopefully sign it.

KC: So how long does it take to get a search warrant?

LR: To draw one up, like, from scratch?

KC: You're on the sidewalk. "Okay, we're going to need to go in to actually have it and being able to search the house."

LR: Usually that would probably take an hour-and-a-half, two hours maybe.

KC: During the day when the judge is in chambers.

LR: Yeah, well, I've gone to judges' houses before. Or we've met judges at certain places. There's always supposed to be one judge that is on hand to review documents like that.

JR: One of the judges that he had a warrant signed by just married our son here in September, [all laugh] Judge Nathanson.⁶⁷

LR: Yes. Judge Nathanson, yeah. Yeah.

KC: You had a good rapport with the judge.

⁶⁷ Judge Roseanne Nathanson was appointed by Governor Jesse Ventura in November 2001 to the Second Judicial District/Ramsey County; was sworn in on March 1, 2002; elected in 2004 and 2010.

LR: Yeah, and when I retired, I also worked courthouse security for Ramsey County for some months, so I got to know some of the judges that way, too.

KC: How'd you like that?

LR: That was good. That was a good job. A whole different aspect of the criminal justice system. Just the whole courtroom proceedings, you're sitting there during trials and how they're picking juries and all of that. And in respects, truthfully, it reinforces what I already know about how things really are on the streets, about these people that just are doing crime after crime after crime and not getting—

JR: What were some of the courts named?

LR: Well, there's drug court and there's DUI court and Veteran's court where they're trying to do some certain things. I think for the most part they do pretty well with that.

KC: So how long did you work—you were a non-sworn deputy?

LR: I was a sworn deputy.

KC: Oh, you went to the dark side, too, for a while.

LR: Yes!

JR: He went to the brown side.⁶⁸ [laughs]

LR: Yeah, it was weird. I mean, I'd be sitting there at the entry point and Saint Paul cops coming in and look at me in brown and go, "Oh, no." [all laugh] But you know, it's true. We're all just doing the same thing. We're fighting the fight.

⁶⁸ Minnesota law requires sheriff's deputies to wear **brown uniforms** in Minnesota and police to wear blue uniforms

KC: How long did you stay as a brown officer?

LR: Well, the way that they do it is you only work until you make your fifteen, sixteen thousand dollars so it won't upset your pension.

KC: Oh.

LR: So I worked six months the first time, because I was only doing five hours a day. And then the second time around, I only worked, like, three-and-a-half months, and then I was done. Then I let my license lapse on purpose, just to get out of it and try something different.

KC: You don't want to do law enforcement.

LR: Not the way things are, got to be honest.

KC: How are things?

LR: I think they're making a very difficult job almost impossible. It's almost like they want robots, and we have emotions and it's pretty hard. Don't want to get on YouTube for anything. That's really about it.

KC: Now is your job for this fall of hunting?

LR: Well, yeah. I've got to find something. I mean, Julie's working part-time.

JR: I'm carrying this guy now. [all laugh]

LR: She's carrying me, so I've got find something. Don't quite know yet. I'm trying to fit in so I don't have to work weekends. Well, that's not working out too well. I mean, most of them, they want you to work weekends, so I'm going to have to find a happy medium here.

JR: He fills his days with not working.

LR: I do.

JR: He has plenty of hobbies. He didn't live to be a cop. He's got a life.

LR: Yeah. I had a great career, but I wanted to be a soldier more than anything, and I was able to do that for twenty years. I did twenty years in the military.

KC: So we started this conversation and you talked about the Air Force, coming back, Bachelor's, Master's, being in the Army, and then you were in the Reserves.

LR: I was in the Army Reserves, yeah.

KC: So you did twenty years.

LR: Twenty years. I was in Psychological Operations for ten years, so that was an interesting job.

KC: So what did you retire as?

LR: I was a captain. Yeah.

KC: With the Army.

LR: Well, I was a captain in the Army, and I ended up as a staff sergeant in the Air Force, but you get your highest rank. It was the Army Reserves.

KC: So outside of being a cop and outside of having a household that is dressed in blue, what are the other things that you did in your life to keep the balance in your life?

LR: To have friends who were not cops. Not that that's a bad thing, but I think it was good to have lifelong friends from high school, from college, who did other things. Another thing for me was not working off-duty. Rarely did I work off-

duty. I think you can get really burnt out. The money's good, but I like my time off. I always did. There's other things out there.

JR: Family's very important to us.

LR: Yeah.

JR: And I was a huge runner. I mean, that was a huge stress reliever, was running, and you just get in the zone and you don't have to think about anything. Done a marathon, half marathon.



Jean Groshens from Records Unit and Julia Rust at a St. Patrick's Day run early 1980s

2000 Half-Marathon
Marsha & Pete Panos,
Lynn Wild, and Julia



But family is huge for us.

LR: Yep.



Chad & Allie, Matt & Aidyn, Nate & Catherine, Lyle & Julia

JR: And I come from five siblings [laughs], so I bring lots of chaos and family to Mr. Only Child there. Do you have siblings?

KC: I have one.

JR: Okay. So do you have that kidding where they're constantly—oh, my God, we were like—they called me Bug Eyes, Disengaged Eyes. [all laugh] I mean, they could really run you down. And I would do it right back. And Lyle, he didn't get that, you know. It was like, oh, my God! [laughs]

LR: Well, I had some disadvantages, too. There was only so many things you could blame on the dog when you're a kid. [all laugh]

KC: How did your parents like having all of the sudden these three grandchildren?

LR: [all laugh] You want to tell her?

JR: Oh, no, you tell her.

LR: Well, what happened was is my mom was in labor with me for three days and almost died and the doctor saved her life.

JR: Small woman, big baby.

LR: Yeah, so her plumbing wasn't all that good. She had two miscarriages after me. The kind of woman that would have been in heaven with six kids.

JR: Yeah.

LR: But obviously, there was some pressure on me from the time I was eighteen to settle down and have kids. And that wasn't for me, and I obviously hadn't met the right person. So finally when I did, her comment was, "Lyle, don't need no virgin." [all laugh]

JR: Well, what makes you think I'm not. [all laugh] Surrounded by little boys.

KC: Just give them to her all at once.

LR: Yes, yes. The whole package right there.

JR: So they lived on a lake by that time, and yeah, the kids, I mean, that was like heaven up in the Brainerd area, to go up to the lake. They were welcoming from the get go. There was no problem with stepchildren or anything like that. She loved me like a daughter.

KC: That's neat.

JR: And Lyle's father just passed away —

LR: A couple years

JR: A couple years ago and for a while there he had to live with us because he had some health issues, so he lived with us for six months and that was like a gift.

LR: Yeah.

JR: Being with him and just—I can pull a story out of people, man. I would be like you. [laughs] So I was, like, finding stuff out about Lyle's family that he didn't even know about. Just getting Rusty to talk—they called him Rusty. His name was Clyde.

LR: There'd be lots of times where my mom would call and, "Hey, Ma, how you doing?" "Is Julie there?" "Here, it's for you." [all laugh]

JR: And we'd go up north, and she would try to take us to bingo and we just couldn't stand bingo, or she wanted me to, like, go with her friends and be that little girl daughter and I'd always be like, "I want to go fishing. I want to go hunting." I wasn't quite maybe the little girly-girl daughter that she was looking for, but we did okay. Yeah, we did okay.

KC: Everybody won.

LR: Yeah.

JR: Yes, without a doubt.

KC: That's great when kids can be accepted.

JR: Yes.

LR: Well, I was thirty-five before I got married. For a while there, I didn't know if it was going to happen. But you don't want to force something like that. You can make some bad decisions.

JR: Right. He was just waiting for someone with three boys and a dog. [all laugh]

LR: Yeah.

KC: So now the eyes meet across the Records room. Julie takes her wedding ring off behind the desk. [all laugh] Who did the pursuing here?

JR: Oh, he was pretty slow at the pursuing.

LR: Yeah. Yeah, I was never that bright.

JR: Yeah. [laughs] I think he came in with a buck slip. "Oh, let me help you." [all laugh] And then we would just kind of like, oh, yeah. We were, like, flirty on the MDTs a lot. Our first date, everybody in the Records Unit had an opinion because it's like, you got three little boys and it's like, okay, what am I going to do? I didn't drink beer. I didn't



Julia with Records Unit staff
Captain Don Winger seated, Julia behind him
c. late 1980s

know anything. So I'm, like, polling. Mark Johnston was the sergeant there, and was it Don Winger was the captain. Anyway, so it's like what kind of beer should I get? [all laugh]

KC: Where did you take her on the first date?

LR: She should have known right there. We went and saw *Silence of the Lambs*.

JR: Yes. [all laugh] A first date movie.

LR: She should have had an inkling.

JR: He came early. We took the boys—I lived in West Saint Paul and took them to a park, like, a half a block away and played with them and had some pizza and beer, and then we went to the movie. And was it before the movie? I said, “Are you going to, like, kiss me later? Could you just do it now and get it over with?” Because I was nervous. [all laugh] I didn’t want to be nervous through the whole movie. He’s like, “Sure!” [all laugh]

KC: Oh. You played with the boys for a bit and then they had a babysitter and—

JR: They were pretty young. What were they? Three—

LR: Chad was nine maybe?

JR: Yeah, three, six, and nine, yeah.

KC: But nine’s a hard age to—

LR: It was tough for him. It was real tough for him.

JR: It was tough for him. Like I said, I mean, his father, like, cried in his arms about this divorce.

LR: I mean, how conflicted would you be? You would definitely be loyal to dad.

JR: Yeah. Yep. Yeah, exactly.

LR: Obviously, we had issues with that, but we got through it.

JR: And he's passed away now. My ex-husband passed away at fifty-nine or sixty. So he's missed out on so much of their lives and the grandchildren's lives. I think they were just babies when he passed away.

KC: Any other stories?

LR: I think I'm done. [all laugh]

KC: Julie, what other stories do you have?

JR: Oh, gosh, I don't know. I just know that the first typing test I ever took for the city was on a throw carriage typewriter. People won't even know what that is. [laughs]

So I remember there was, like, hundreds of people taking this test for a Clerk Typist I, and I threw my carriage. I typed three words and somebody threw their carriage, and I'm like, oh, my god, I'm toast. [laughs] But I was already working for the department as a temp, so all you had to do was pass in the top level and you would get hired. So here I am.



What other stories? When I was in the chief's office we started a club called the Office of the Chief Survivor Club [all laugh], so it was like anybody who worked for the office of the chief, we would, like, meet at Joseph's for happy hour. We still do. [laughs]

KC: Do the chiefs get to come? [all laugh]

JR: No! No. It would be like, who would we talk about? So any of the inspectors and stuff who would work there, yeah, they would all go. Had some good times.

Oh, I know a story I wanted to tell you about Finney. So I'm working for him now, and I had to go over the mail with him. Whatever the mail was, I'd get it organized with good letters, complaints, and whatever, and we'd sit down once a week and go through all this. So I'm like, "Blah, blah, blah, blah, blah." And he's not responding. And I look up and he's sleeping. [all laugh] He had fallen asleep! And I'm like, "Now what?" [all laugh] I was like, [coughs]. And he's like [does impression].

Or when the cell phones just came out when I was working for Finney and he, like, went into his bathroom while we were doing mail and his phone rings and he just yells out, "Could you answer that phone?" I said, "How?" [all laugh] "How do you answer the cell phone?" He's like, "Just push any button." I managed to push the off button. [all laugh] He was probably glad to get rid of me.

KC: Well, and such different personalities in chiefs between Finney and Harrington.

JR: Finney was always good to both of us. He was your boss in Central. And my sister, Sandy, used to kind of work for him, too, somewhere.

LR: They were all different.

JR: Yep. And then you know I went to high school with [Chief] Tom Smith? So that was interesting. And we always say that, "Oh, we went to high school together." But we never knew each other really back in high school. He was like the jock. And I was in the band, although I was band president. So yeah, we didn't know each other that well in high school, but that's always our claim to fame.

KC: Was there a transition between working for Harrington and working for Smith? Because I don't see their personalities as starkly [different as between Finney and Harrington], but they certainly are very different.

JR: Um, I think that Tom obviously wanted to do a very good job as chief, and he wanted to do this thing called a dashboard where you would know what your pending things are or "Who's responsible for this? What's the step that we're at in this?" I never quite got that going for him. John Wuorinen⁶⁹ was his XO Sergeant, and he just wanted to do so well, do a good job that—and John [Harrington], it was just kind of like, if you don't like me, whatever. He would just move on. Where Tom was bound and determined to do a good job.

I remember when [Chief] John [Harrington] was leaving and Tom had already been notified that he was going to be the next chief, but I didn't know what was going to happen to me in that position. Did Tom want me to stay? Was he going to bring Lauri [Woolstencroft], who was his assistant, over with him, which would have been natural? John would come and say, "Did Tom talk to you yet?" "No. No, he didn't! I don't know if I'm going to be, like, on the unemployment line or what." So I think that John must have said something to Tom, so he finally came out and asked. It's, like, hello, yes.

KC: Well, I would imagine John had figured out that it was going to make it a lot easier for Tom if you stayed.

JR: Sure. And it did, because you're able to help him out with so much and you also knew—and Tom did also, being assistant chief, but you knew the other people in the FBI, in the ATF. You knew these head people, you knew who was in charge,

⁶⁹ **John Robert Wuorinen** was appointed police officer April 5, 1993; promoted to sergeant July 31, 1999.

you knew their secretaries. So I think I was a big help to Tom to get going. But I think that Angie Steinberg is—she’s probably heads and shoulders above what I was able to do. She’s got it, man. From working for [Chief] Finney and then [Sheriff] Fletcher.⁷⁰ She didn’t work for Bostrom.⁷¹ Then she came back, I think, and Brenna went to work for Bostrom. But yeah, she’s got that position nailed.

KC: So did Angie come in and spend some weeks with you while transitioning out?

JR: Sure. Mm-hmm, yep. And obviously because of her background and expertise, it didn’t take much. It was just kind of like more of what does he like? How is he to work with? What does he like? What does he want to do on a weekly basis as far as, like, the mail?

And you develop your own style, so whatever I trained her in, she would develop her own style, I’m sure, and do quite well at it. Yeah, we still are very good friends.



Chief Tom Smith with Julia
on her last day of work

⁷⁰ **Robert Fletcher** was appointed police officer July 11, 1977; promoted to sergeant February 8, 1981; lieutenant February 23, 1987—rank title changed to commander January 4, 2003; leave of absence to be Ramsey County Sheriff 1995-2010; returned to commander January 2011; retired June 10, 2010.

⁷¹ **Matthew Daniel Bostrom** was appointed police community service officer June 28, 1981; police officer March 27, 1983; promoted to sergeant April 17, 1994; lieutenant March 27, 1999; with a title change to commander January 1, 2000; senior commander June 26, 2004; and assistant chief April 8, 2006; elected Ramsey County Sheriff January 1, 2011.

She's in the Office of the Chief Survivor Club. She's in the SHIT Club. [all laugh]

LR: Yes. Her husband is part of the Zombie Shoot [all laugh]

[LR: In 2005 Julie was honored with Honorable Mention for Civilian of the Year,

Officer Lyle Rust,
Chief John Harrington,
and Julia Rust



and 2012 Julie was Civilian of the Year.

APRIL 24, 2012 Star Tribune

- Julia Rust was named Civilian Employee of the Year. The executive assistant to the chief, Rust has been with the department more than 30 years. She retires this year.
- "When my wife wants to do something with me, she has to contact Julia" to schedule an appointment, Smith joked.
- Rust plays a key role in juggling the chief's daily schedule and organizing events and projects, such as collecting toys and treats for military dogs abroad.
- "I'm honored by your kind words," Rust said.



Julia after awards ceremony
with Senior Commander Greg Pye

[KC: That is a high honor to be proud of.

Julia, you are known for your many efforts in the larger community and in preserving the history of the department. Please talk about these activities.

JR: I really can't talk about my career at the Saint Paul Police Department without mentioning all the events I have organized starting way back in Records. Every year I would organize a food drive to benefit the Trinity Mission⁷² on the East Side. That grew into a food and



Food drive

clothing drive over the years. Then we added in a school supply drive in late summer. All the donated items went to Pat and Rick Brengman, who ran the Trinity Mission. They originally started running it out of their home – just helping out their community by supplying food, hygiene products, diapers, and clothing to anyone who needed a hand. Over the years they acquired a house across the street and their operation grew with the help of their family and volunteers.

⁷² Trinity Mission office is at 836 E. Magnolia, Saint Paul, MN. 55106

The East Side cops knew about this resource and were able to use it to help families they met through police calls. Maybe a family didn't have any food or diapers or even clothes and furniture. The cops were able to go to the Bergman's day or night and help get the family set up.

The whole department was involved in these drives. Assistant Chief Ted Brown once asked me what was needed, and I told him that toilet paper was always on top of the list. He looked at me and said he wasn't going to walk down the street with a bunch of toilet paper! We laughed about that, and he donated other items to preserve his dignity as an A C.

Pat Brengman had passion for people, food

The St. Paul mother of 12 made it her goal to see that thousands were fed at Trinity Mission Food Shelf.

By [Abby Simons](#) Star Tribune **OCTOBER 22, 2011 — 5:15PM**

Meatballs with mashed potatoes and gravy. Roast, ham and turkey in the oven. Stocked shelves, a lifeline for the hungry poor. When you were in Pat Brengman's presence, whether you had an appetite was beside the point. Sooner or later, you ate. "It didn't matter who you were, it was all the same," said Larry Brengman, the seventh of her 12 children. "You came, you ate and you took food with you." Food, her love for it, and especially for feeding others, is how Brengman will be long remembered. She died Oct. 7 in St. Paul after a long battle with lupus and pulmonary disease. She was 78.

Brengman, along with her husband, Rick, founded St. Paul's Trinity Mission Food Shelf, which since 1982 has served thousands of the hungry poor across the Twin Cities and into Wisconsin. Even after Brengman's death, the food shelf will continue feeding families into its 30th year, largely with her 12 children and a handful of volunteers at the helm. Trinity Mission Food Shelf was the result of Brengman's greatest loves: people and food. The Brengmans ran Shirley's Diner in south Minneapolis, where she began feeding the hungry and homeless nearby. After the diner closed, Rick Brengman went to work for Honeywell. With his income, they began grocery shopping and putting together meals to bring to the homeless near the Uptown railroad tracks, Larry Brengman said. Eventually things grew and they opened the food shelf in St. Paul. From there, he said, things "just kind of exploded." "Mom's favorite saying was 'You never know if Jesus shows up at your door,'" he said. "So she'd help everybody. If you needed help, she'd help you."

As it still does today, Trinity didn't have boundaries on who it served. And churches from all over the Twin Cities make donations to the food shelf, said Mary Jo Rusinak, a Trinity volunteer and board member. She recalled her friend as saintly and passionate about food, whether feeding strangers or her family and friends. It was never anything fancy, Rusinak said, just "good, hearty comfort-type food. Minnesotan food." "If she loved you, she fed you." And she loved everyone, Rusinak said.

Larry Brengman said it was normal to take a seat next to a hungry stranger at their dinner table, especially during the holidays. He and each of his 11 siblings at one time or another had to give their shoes or jackets to people who showed up without any. He laughed when he recalled how, at 14, he had to give up a prized jacket. "I was stubborn and said, 'But Mom, it's a leather jacket!'" he recalled saying. " 'Just give it to them,'" she responded. Although Pat Brengman was bedridden for the past five years, she never quit running the food shelf, particularly during the recent recession when the number of clients jumped from about 1,600 to 2,200. Some of them, Larry Brengman said, were former donors. "It's funny because she never really did retire," he said. "She would run the place from her bed. People would sit at her bedside and she'd tell them what to do."

Pat Brengman is survived by her husband, John F. "Rick" Brengman Jr.; their children John, Mark, Paul, Bryan, Gerald, Lawrence, Robert, James, Lawrence, Paul and Michael; a sister, Norma Schleppegrell; 23 grandchildren, and eight great-grandchildren. Services have been held. Abby Simons • 612-673-4921

I continued to organize these food drives throughout my time in the office of the chief under Chief Finney. We used to get several officers or a current recruit class to help deliver the food. We usually had a paddy wagon full of food to donate. And you couldn't stop and see the Brengmans without being fed by Pat. She was amazing!

Also during my years in Records, I would organize adopting a family for Christmas. I would find a local family that needed help, find out what they needed / wanted and the department would donate money or items. I even found a man who volunteered to dress as Santa and help us deliver the wrapped presents. My middle son, Matt, who was about six years old at the time, even wrapped up his own GI Joes for the little boys in the family.

Once I transferred to Personnel, I inherited the responsibility of organizing the department ceremonies such as Medal of Valor and Officer of the Year events.

When I transferred to the chief's office, I started organizing the Medal of Merit, Life Saving Awards, Chief's Awards and all the promotional ceremonies. And at that time, I also took over organizing the annual retirement dinners from Carole Yoswa. And instead of passing it on to Angie Steenberg when I retired, I stayed on the committee and continue to organize the retirement dinners. Definitely a labor of love! I never planned on being an event planner and actually don't enjoy it at all, but that is definitely what I have become!

JR: So do you remember there was a case in Mendota Heights—a school that my where there was a vandalism done to the school.

LR: Million dollars worth of damage.

JR: It was, like, paint thrown around and computers were broken. And computers had just come out back then. So it was Jean Groshen⁷³ Art Guerrero,⁷⁴ and I organized a one mile family walk and a three mile run to raise money for the school.



Marcia Panos & Officer Kevin Reinke of SPPD

We had, like, all of the SPPD employees were there and this was all volunteer. We had the Reserves who came out. And this was in West Saint Paul, so it was even out of the city. We had to go to a City Council meeting and get permission to do this. We were in the Signal Hills parking lot and so we had ambulances, we had portapotties, we had, like, the big finish sign with a clock so it was an accredited run, and we just had so many volunteers. We raised, like, \$5,000 for the school. And at that time, that was pretty

⁷³ **Jean Marie Groshens** appointed Clerk Typist I February 15, 1980; promoted Clerk Typist II April 4, 1984; Clerk Typist III April 15, 1986; and transferred to the mayor's office October 24, 1994.

⁷⁴ **Arthur Guerrero** appointed Police Community Officer July 31, 1972; was appointed police officer March 27, 1983; promoted to sergeant March 30, 1990; and retired December 30, 2011.

big. So that was just a lot of fun. Marsha Panos⁷⁵ was there helping and Art Guerrero.

KC: So you were living in West Saint Paul.

JR: Yes. That was kind of a big deal back then.

KC: But your department supported you for West Saint Paul.

JR: They did. They did, yep. And it was like I say, all the Reserves came out to direct traffic at intersections for the runners to go. So everybody out of city went and did this and all of these resources, so it was just a feel good story.

KC: Yeah. And it also shows the respect that the people you worked with had for you and something that was important to you.

JR: Yeah. And of course I was a big runner, so I mean, that was the way to go.

LR: Yeah.

JR: It was fun.
It was a lot
of fun. I
even had
my
pediatrician
out there
running. [all
laugh]



⁷⁵ **Marsha A. Panos** appointed health/fitness specialist January 2, 1990; promoted physical fitness coordinator February 27, 2007; and retired October 31, 2013.

[Another one of the fun things I was able to organize was a drive to collect dog treats for military dogs. Mary Day was the person who originally told Ruthie Ruth Rinehart, also SPPD employee, and my good friend about how the military dogs don't get care packages. And Ruthie relayed it to me to see if we could do anything about it. It was supposed to be just another internal collection, but people were forwarding the email to their friends, and it went completely viral! It was a way for people to do a little to support the military. And who doesn't love dogs, huh? [laughs] After collecting tons of toys and treats, Delta Airlines flew the items to Iraq and Afghanistan. We had many monetary donations also and were able to assist with shipping costs. We joked that we had so many tennis balls donated from tennis clubs that if the plane fell out of the sky, it would bounce! We also had so many toys and treats that far outnumbered the military dogs so we wound up donating a bunch to dog pounds and shelters here. It was a lot of fun!]



Officer Mary Alberg and K9 Magnum, Chief Tom Smith, Officer Dave Longbehn and K9 Kody review the dog toys and treats to be sent to military dogs serving in Iraqi and Afghanistan. 2010

[In addition to organizing the events, I would also take photos at all of them. I also took photos at the following events:

- Y2K – rode around with SWAT. Nothing happened that needed their response so we just took a lot of fun photos.
- RNC – rode around with S/C Joe Neuberger and Josh Lego taking photos of the various spots with people protesting. Again, nothing much was happening and I was dropped off at HQ to start my shift in the detention area. Just after I was dropped off, the protestors took a bridge. I missed all the action!
- Recruit academy group photos
- Recruit graduations
- Recruit training exercises
- K9 Graduations
- Mounted Graduations
- Candidates for Chief position
- Food Drive deliveries
- Christmas Adopt a Family deliveries w/Santa
- Recruitment photos for brochures
- Domestic Violence (this photo was on a billboard above the Eastern District for a long time)
- Brochure photos for EAP
- Cops & Kids present deliveries
- Police Memorial Day events
- Day of Honor events
- Motors Unit – photo of Motors Unit in front of Mickey's Diner w/Tim Bradley and his dad
- K9 Unit on Capitol stairs]

KC: Thank you both very much.

LR: Thank you!

JR: It's been a pleasure. Thank you. And it's an honor for us to be interviewed like this, so we appreciate you considering us for this.

KC: Well, it's been an honor for me.

LR: I was a little nervous, but—

JR: He was a little nervous.



SPPD Retirement Dinner May 9, 2013

Lyle, Julia and Chief Tom Smith

PIONEER PRESS

St. Paul Pioneer Press



Julia Rust gets farewell hugs Wednesday from friends and co-workers Angela Steenberg, left, and Lauri Woodstencroft at St. Paul Police Department headquarters.

Illustration: Photo: PIONEER PRESS: RICHARD MARSHALL

1 / 6 - Friday, August 31, 2012

Edition: St. Paul **Section:** Local **Page:** A3

Source: By Mara H. Gottfried mgottfried@pioneerpress.com

Dateline: St. Paul

Police 'mom' retires as chief's assistant//Rust began as records clerk in 1976

From behind a camera, **Julia Rust** has captured many moments in the St. Paul Police Department, but it's been rare that the lens has found her.

Rust, the longest-serving civilian employee at the department, has been executive assistant to two chiefs and mostly works behind the scenes.

"I feel much more natural behind the camera than in front of it," **Rust** said. "I wanted to capture the heart of the department."

Rust, hired as a St. Paul police records clerk a month out of high school in 1976, says she "literally grew up here in this department." She retires Friday, Aug. 31.

Rust was raised on St. Paul's West Side and went to elementary and high school with Chief Thomas Smith, her boss. Both now 54, Smith and **Rust** were in the same grades at St. Matthew's School and Humboldt High School. Their paths didn't cross in school, **Rust** said. "He was big into sports. I was big into band," she said this week.

Rust has been Smith's executive assistant since he became chief two years ago and was former Chief John Harrington's assistant for four years. Her job is among the top civilian posts in the department.

"I kind of liken it to being someone's mom.... Just making sure he is completely ready for everything," she said. "I like to take care of the details, so it looks seamless."

Rust's co-workers nominated her for the department's Civilian of the Year award, and Smith gave her the honor in April. The chief's executive assistant must be trustworthy, and **Rust** was that confidante, Smith and Harrington said this week.

"She has a great eye for detail and a great sense of the importance of what we were doing, but she never let it get to the point that she took herself so seriously," Harrington said. "There are times when chiefs can take themselves way too seriously, and **Julia** doesn't allow for that. When you were sometimes feeling put upon in the world, **Julia** was there to remind you how blessed you are."

One of **Rust's** favorite parts of her job was organizing the department's awards and promotions ceremonies. She saw them as a way to tell the department's story in a positive way.

"I don't think people really know what it entails to be an officer," she said. "You just don't hear all the things they have to go through or the emotion when they have saved the baby's life."

"They're not cold. They're not callous. It's not just a job to them. They are invested in St. Paul."

Rust began photographing the department's ceremonies and other happenings about 12 years ago -- as a record for the department, and as mementos for the officers and their families.

Her largest, most public photograph is on a billboard on the police department's Eastern District on Payne Avenue. Now faded from the sun and elements, it shows Harrington and other men taking a stand against domestic violence.

Rust has had a passion for photography for nearly 20 years, since her husband presented her with her first 35mm camera on their first wedding anniversary. She loves nature photography.

More recently, **Rust** organized a military K9 toy drive for working dogs in Iraq and Afghanistan. She heard about soldiers getting care packages, but not their dogs.

"I said, 'Well, we can change that,' " said **Rust**, who joined the Minnesota National Guard 33 years ago and worked as a medic for six years.

Rust sent out a department-wide email, intending to restrict the K9 toy drive to St. Paul police, but the word spread to other states and Canada. "We had so many tennis balls, I said if the airplane fell out of the sky, it would bounce," **Rust** said. They sent the extra dog toys to local animal shelters.

Rust's husband, Lyle **Rust**, is a patrol officer in St. Paul's Central District. He will retire next month.

ID: 26840395

Copyright © 2012, St. Paul Pioneer Press. Unauthorized reproduction or Web posting prohibited.

RETIREMENT:

