

## Volunteer of the Month – Ofcs. Cid Palmieri and Jim Barrett

Asylum Hill has always been blessed with dedicated CSOs right from the beginning of the program. And it's hard to say what effort goes beyond their job description and into the realm of voluntary. But when Ofc. Cid Palmieri, our current CSO and Ofc. Jim Barrett a former Asylum Hill CSO joined with 10 other law



enforcement officers from the Hartford area and took a week of vacation time to ride bicycles to Washington DC they qualified for Volunteer of the Month.

The event was the 22<sup>nd</sup> annual Police Unity Tour. It began in 1997 with 18 officers from Florham Park, New Jersey riding to the National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial in Washington, D.C to raise both awareness and money for the memorial for police around the nation who have died in the line of service.

This past May they announced that the Police Unity Tour was able to donate 2.6 million dollars to the National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial Fund bringing the total donations from these rides to almost 23 million dollars.

Ofc. Cid has taken on a leadership position here in Hartford to organize participation from this area. Each rider is either an active duty officers with HPD or Connecticut State Troupers, or retired. Each of them chooses a particular fallen officer to remember and ride for and in the process to reach out to the family members left behind.

The first Hartford Officer to die in the line of duty was Officer Thomas M. Knevet who was struck by a vehicle in November of 1919. He is still remembered and honored.

There have been a total of 7 HPD officers who have died in the line of duty, but others such as Ofc. Brian Aselton of East Hartford were included, and Ofc. Palmieri rode for him. Family members of all of these officers are very gratified to know that their loved ones are remembered and honored by their fellow officers each year.

Ofc. Jim Barrett rode this year for the second time, but anyone who knows him or keeps up with the news regularly knows that he has blurred the line between duty and volunteering. The work that he has been doing at City Hall with the downtown population, especially the homeless has been nothing less than amazing. A man after my own heart, he takes photos of all those whose lives he has changes and put them on the wall of his office at City Hall. It says something words cannot to any one who stops by there for help. And that help can include anything from clothes or shoes to food, shelter or a place for rehab.

Asylum Hill can be very proud of the volunteer spirit of our CSOs past & present. For more photos of the Unity Tour send off at the Public Safety Building and Ofc. Barrett's office go to: <https://photos.app.goo.gl/gLxn7GzrKJFyUQ4Z8>