

I am Nicholas J. Roberts, your newly selected Secretary for the UPOA, I will have 45 full years of public service on August 1, 2022. I have been asked by the UPOA to tell you a bit about myself and my career.

Some of you may be asking why, after 45 years, I am still a cop. Why not retire?

Well, I care a lot about law enforcement, our communities, and the public, and I believe we as a group must work together to make a difference in protecting each other and the public we serve.

I was born, raised, and went to college in New York City, but I came to Utah in 1977 to start my career as a Salt Lake City Fireman/EMT. Due to the sunset of a federal grant, I was laid off after only one year, and decided I would find a way to be what I wanted most—a police officer.

I was hired by Riverton Police Department in 1978 and worked as a patrol officer, EMT, and armorer. After the next city election, the new mayor decided to disband the Police Department and contract with the Sheriff's Office. Seeing the writing on the wall, I tested for the Salt Lake County Sheriff's Office under Sheriff N.D. Pete Hayward. I was proud to be ranked #1 on this test, and more proud to be offered a job after my interview. I became a Salt Lake County Sheriff's Deputy on May 1, 1980.

I worked several divisions (Patrol East, Patrol West, Jail, and the old Metro) throughout the Sheriff's Department for nine years, and then was transferred to the Firearms Department as a corporal under Lt. Gene Van Rosendaal. The transfer to Firearms opened many new opportunities for me as I excelled in firearms and training, eventually allowing me to become a nationally recognized expert in firearms and body armor:

- I assisted in building the range at the Holladay Gun Club.
- In 1991 Sheriff Aaron Kennard tasked me with creating a program to provide our officers with semi-automatic pistols without large costs. Within a year and a half, our office had transitioned to semi-autos.
- In 1993, we lost the Holladay Gun Range due to the property being sold by its owner, and Lt. Van Rosendaal retired. We had to continue to train 300 deputies and corrections officers, and was only able to do so because the Salt Lake City Airport Police allowed us to use their range. We needed a new facility.
- Sheriff Kennard tasked me with finding a new piece of land where we could build our own training facility, and after a county-wide search and the good graces of a gentleman who owned a number of parcels in Parley's Canyon, I selected a parcel of 40 acres at what is now the current range site. The owner agreed to lease the land to Salt Lake County for 25 years for \$1.00 per year. Later, in 2002, I was able to negotiate the donation of that same 40 acres to Salt Lake County.
- After a nation-wide search, in 1996 I was promoted to Range Master, and started construction of four ranges on the Parley's Canyon property. We needed a new off-ramp from I-80 to make the range accessible, so I worked successfully with Senator Orrin Hatch and the federal Department of Transportation to get the ramp built.
- In 1998, the range was finished, and I was nominated to attend the FBI National Academy Session 192. After the hardest 13 weeks of my life, I graduated with my Yellow Brick!

- In 2002, I was selected to be part of a Washington D.C. investigation with the National Institute of Justice (NOJ) into the failure of an NIJ-certified vest made of Zylon. After several years of investigation by the NOJ, the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST), and the members of the board, the cause was found, leading to the new NIJ .06 body armor standard that has protected Officer's lives since 2008! I currently still sit on the board and have been working with some of the greatest people in the world to come up with NIJ. 07, which hopefully will be released this year.
- In 2016, I was asked to Chair the American Society of Testing and Minerals (ASTM) Group E.54.04 over personal protective equipment. I am still the Chair of this committee, and in 2021 ASTM awarded me their President James A. Thomas Award for extraordinary leadership.

During my time as Range Master and in the Sheriff's Office and now the UPD, I have assisted many police departments, both Federal, State, and Local, with firearms issues and training. I have earned many awards from the Distinguished Service Medal to the Purple Heart. I have testified as an expert witness at trials and in Congressional hearings. And I haven't forgotten what it means to be a beat cop, answering calls and backing up other officers.

I love being a cop. I love helping to protect the safety of my fellow cops, and protecting our neighbors.

But besides law enforcement, the true love of my life is my wife Zoe. We have been married for 38 years and have grown three sons.

I am honored to serve with the men and women of the UPD, the Sheriff's Office, and all of the Officers throughout the Great State of Utah. I thank all of you for letting me serve with you.

Nick Roberts