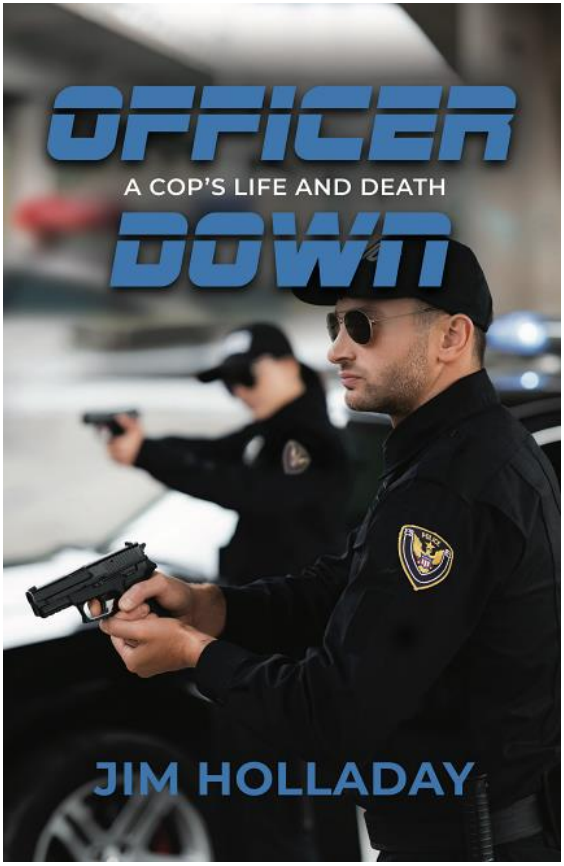
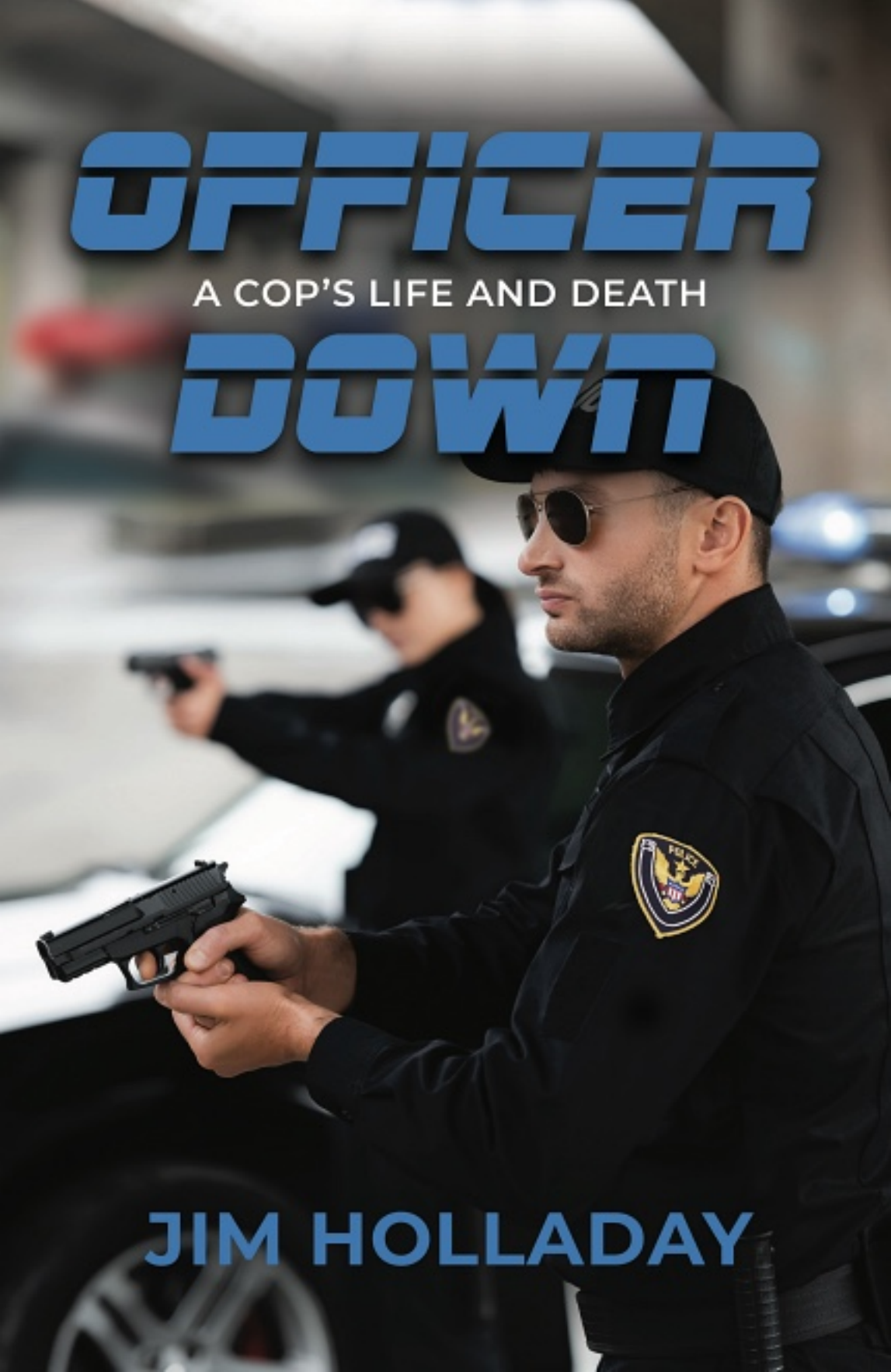


Becoming a cop wasn't easy. Jack needed education and experience. He got on to the LAPD. He did a good job but he had a hard time staying alive.

Officer Down: A Cop's Life and Death
By Jim Holladay

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OFFICER
A COP'S LIFE AND DEATH
DOWN
JIM HOLLADAY

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CHAPTER FIVE

The end of Jack's enlistment was quickly approaching. He was constantly being recruited to remain in the Army with offers of bonuses and promotions. He was even offered a chance to apply for OCS. Jack and Martha were firm on getting a job and location where they could put down their roots and raise their family. The Army was too uncertain. Transfers were common, and sometimes, families could not accompany the soldier. He refused all the offers to re-enlist.

After talking with Martha, they felt California would be the good place to settle down if Jack could get a job with a good police force., but not in this desert. The problem was which location would be best to try for. California was so large and they had only been to a few places. It might come down to locating where Jack could get hired rather than where they wanted to go. Jack decided to start making some inquiries with various departments about their hiring needs and compensation packages.

Before he could send out his first request, Jack began to get offers from several departments across the state and even from the State Police. It seemed everyone wanted to hire him. That was quite a change from his previous job hunt. It seems that some reporter, with nothing better to do, had run a story about high-ranking people being in danger of being assassinated. He had cited the incident when Jack saved the life of the Governor. The reporter interviewed Jack for the story and it was revealed that Jack would soon be looking for a job in one of the state's many police departments.

Jack didn't have to look for a job. The jobs were looking for him. Everybody wanted a famous hero on their police force. Everyone would be safer if the renowned Sgt. Jack Moore was now protecting us. Now he had a new problem. Where they wanted to live and work. Martha wanted a nice quiet community. To her, the location was the big decision maker. She wanted him to be safe and come home to his family each night. No worries about being gunned down while on duty. Perhaps a place like Mayberry as depicted on TV.

Jack wanted to go with an active police department, and one that paid very well with promotion potentials. He certainly did not want to be a cop who mostly handed out traffic tickets and answered complaints about barking dogs. It had come down to a small town versus a big city.

The decision was beginning to lean toward a big city because the pay between the two was vastly different. Martha bent a little at this news, but still wasn't totally convinced. She had grown up with lots of money and was getting a little tired of just getting by.

Jack's discharge date arrived and he was honorably released with the final approach that his country needed him and the Army offered him a great career. He still took the discharge.

Jack's old friend Frank Roberts offered to have them stay at his farm until he decided where their next home was going to be. They also took a few days to visit the bigger cities. Martha decided she wanted the southern part of the state and her final selection pointed toward San Diego. Jack made the final decision and selected Los Angeles. A factor in his choice was that it is the largest police department in the world. There were lots of opportunities. Also, Jack was afraid San Diego might be somewhat involved in border problems.

The family returned to the Robert's farm and Jack went to LA to apply. This was nothing more than a formality since the LAPD had already recruited him. He was hired as soon as he made the appointment. Even though he now had a vast amount of experience, he still had to attend the Police Academy where he graduated at the top of his class. After the graduation ceremony, Sam White, one of the top Asst Chiefs from the Chief's office pulled Jack aside and informed him that they wanted him to eventually be directly under the Chief but Jack would need to work in every department and office to gain the knowledge he would need for his future.

Jack had mixed feelings about that. He certainly wanted the experience being offered but he was also getting anxious to buy a home and start living like a family with Martha and JW. The way the Asst. Chief made it sound, he might spend a few months clear across town, many miles from his family, then be transferred again some other place also many miles away. He finally decided he had little choice but to either get out of his lifelong desire of police work on the streets or go along with the program being offered.

He and Martha found a home to rent in a nice area, as close to the beach that they could afford, and began being a family. It was a struggle getting by. The cost of living was high in LA. They had some savings to buy a home, but neither of them wanted to use that. It was hard; Martha did the best she could.

Jack's first assignment was in a rough part of town where he was partnered with a seasoned officer, Cpl. Barnes. There was a lot of riding around the streets of their territory looking and watching and waiting for a call to come in. Sometimes Cpl. Barnes and sometimes Jack was the driver. It didn't take long until Jack became very familiar with the

streets, businesses, and residents. The calls were mostly from residents about domestic violence and neighborhood problems. They got a few death calls or serious 911 calls about illnesses.

Most calls in the business area were shoplifting or drunks causing problems. They got a call from a liquor store that seemed to have quite a few calls for various reasons. This one was about an armed holdup in progress, with shots fired. They were patrolling quite close and sped to the shop. A man was running from the store. Jack took off running after him and Barnes dashed into the store, with his gun drawn, to check on additional suspects and the condition of the employees.

Jack was closing in on his suspect when the shooter turned and fired wild in Jack's direction. Jack returned fire striking the suspect in the leg just above the knee. He went down and Jack rushed in, put cuffs on him just as Cpl. Barnes arrived.

Barnes asked Jack, "Why did you shoot him in the leg? I thought you were a better shot than that."

Jack replied, "I am an excellent shot. I could have hit him anywhere I wanted but I thought the injured leg would stop him and we could then arrest him."

"Jack, that was a bad call. He could have fallen on the ground and still shot you or someone else before you got him cuffed. I'm glad I didn't have to go see your widow today. Next time, shoot to kill. Think of your own safety first."

Jack had to agree with him. He learned a valuable lesson today. He thanked Cpl. Barnes.

Cpl. Barnes and Jack went back on patrol with Barnes driving. Their radio was giving various calls. Cpl. Barnes froze at the next call;

"OFFICER DOWN". Barnes went quiet, and listened sharply to the radio. He then drove on. He explained that you soon learn how to hear the calls important to you and ignore the others. He added, an officer down call is important to everyone.

Jack was soon re-assigned to the traffic division and to motorcycles. It was a lot harder than a car but more dangerous and a lot more fun. They worked in teams issuing tickets to speeders and lone drivers traveling in the HOV lanes. Once they assisted in a police chase on the freeway. He was told by some of the other officers about getting extra off duty pay escorting funerals and such.

One day about six months later, Jack was contacted by the Asst. Chief that a home in the area he and Martha were living had been confiscated by the city from someone who is now in prison for life. The property has been ordered sold by the court, and if Jack liked the house, he should bid on it. Nothing guaranteed, but he might just win the bid. He and Martha looked over the property and liked it even though it would require a great deal of cleaning and minor repairs. The vegetation was a complete loss.

Jack submitted a bid as directed in an amount he was sure would be laughed at. He heard several bids had been rejected due to some technicality but his was still on the table at the advertised bid opening time and Martha and Jack became the new owners. Jack learned that a lender had already been contacted and arranged for the loan for the entire purchase price at a very attractive rate.

The couple started cleaning up the place and moved in immediately. They used the money they had saved for the repairs. Jack was surprised at how many of his fellow officers volunteered their help in moving and making repairs, most of them he didn't even know. Jack

learned of a new furniture store that would give special pricing to police officers. Putting the new home in shape was hard but it came together much quicker than he anticipated. He was especially proud of how much work Martha put in. She would be working when he left for work and still at it when his shift was over. Jack and Martha worked on their house every hour of every day they could.

Jack's home life was beginning to settle down. Martha seemed happy and was getting to know the area and neighbors. Little JW, now five years old, was becoming quite a handful. It seemed to Jack he grew bigger every day. He was at an interesting age and Jack looked forward each day to getting home to be with him.

Jack continued to be reassigned frequently. Sometimes he was happy to be sent somewhere else but at times he was enjoying his assignment and would not mind staying there a little longer. About three years after he joined the department, he received orders to report to the Chief's office for duty. He didn't seem to have any specific duties; just waiting around and getting acquainted.

The chief finally called Jack into his office. A few others were also there including the Asst. Chief, Sam White who Jack had met before and had like him. The Chief welcomed Jack to the headquarters office and told him how glad he was to have a man like Jack in the LAPD. He added that the performance reports from Jack's supervisors over the last three years had been excellent.

Jack thanked the Chief and expressed his pleasure to be a member of the LAPD. Jack then asked what his duties would now be and where he would be working.

The Chief said, "We are a big city, and this is a big Police Department that I have the responsibility for. I can't do it alone. I have

many people helping me, some of them are here with us now. We get a lot of VIP visitors from all over the world. They come for business reasons, political, and for just personal purposes. I cannot meet them personally but don't want them to feel slighted. I am looking for a man who will be available twenty-four hours a day to help me with these visitors. It might be picking them up or returning them at the airport or a private air field; helping them during their visit and generally making them feel welcome here. I need someone who is above all a professional, smart, knowledgeable and willing to represent the LAPD. My man must be ready and willing to do whatever I ask of him. He will be an important member of our inner circle. Jack, I think you are that man. You will have the authority to arrange police escorts and special security details that you feel is necessary. You will have the rank of Lieutenant at first but will be soon promoted to Captain."

"If you do not want to accept this position, just say the word, and tell me where you want to serve. I will see to that assignment. Your refusal will have no bearing on your career with LAPD."

Jack hardly knew what to say. He was totally unprepared for this. He thought his assignment to the Chief's office might be for a file clerk or receptionist. He sat for a minute looking at the Chief. He replied, "This is a very unusual assignment. I hope I can handle it to your satisfaction. I cannot accept it right now since I need to talk it over with my wife. We are partners and will both either accept or refuse the offer."

"Jack, I would have been disappointed if you had accepted without talking to your family. That is very important to me. They will also be affected by your decision. Take a couple of days off and spend them

with your wife. Bring her in, I would like to meet her. Let me know when you have decided. I look forward to having you on board."

When he discussed it with Martha she was dumbfounded. She never thought they would one day be among the top brass. At first, she wanted him to accept before they changed their mind. As she thought it over, she was concerned about the danger and whether he would be at work most of the time. She said it was important for their son to have a father.

After much thought and discussion, they decided he would accept the position and if it turned out to be the wrong one, they could always leave LAPD and find that quiet little place to settle in.

The next day, Jack, Martha, and JW all went to Disneyland and the beach. The day after, Jack went to work early. He met with the Chief and accepted the position.

BOOKS BY JIM HOLLADAY:

NED BAYNE – BEYOND THE HORIZON – BOOK 1

NED BAYNE – BEYOND THE BADGE – BOOK2

NED BAYNE – BEYOND FAMILY TIES – BOOK 3

WHAT'S NEXT – AN ANTHOLOGY BY AN OCTOGENARIAN

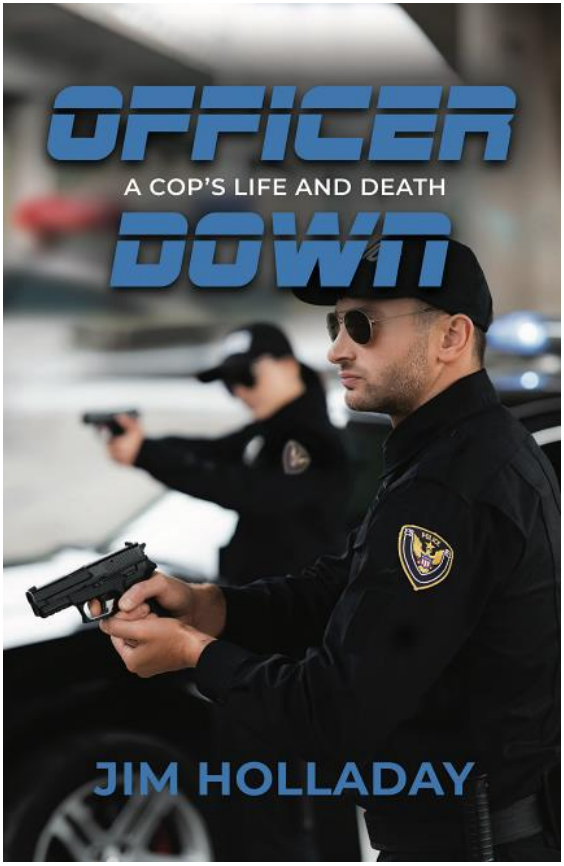
THE VILLAGE WITH NO NAME

OLD JOE – STORY TELLER – A LIFE REMEMBERED

OFFICER DOWN

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