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Fraternal Order of Police Dedicates New National Headquarters in Nashville

Fraternal Order of Police (FOP) leaders and members from across the country will gather in Nashville on February 8, 2007 for the official dedication of the new **National FOP Headquarters**.

The Fraternal Order of Police National Headquarters, located at 701 Marriott Drive, will be dedicated as the **Atnip-Orms Center** in a ceremony on Thursday, February 8 at 1 p.m. The building is being dedicated in memory of two FOP members and national officers: Jerry Atnip and Ralph Orms. Both men served long and productive tenures on the National FOP Executive Board as National Secretary.

The establishment of a permanent National Headquarters office ends the tradition of having the National office relocate to the city where the National Secretary lives. From the time the FOP was established in 1915, the National Headquarters moved every time a new National Secretary was elected.

However, with FOP membership currently standing at more than 325,000 and requiring up-to-date technology that can efficiently manage membership records, the need for permanent headquarters became apparent.

In 2003 an exploratory committee was formed to determine the feasibility of buying a building, and to determine where in the United States the National Headquarters should be located. Since 1993, when Jerry Atnip was elected National Secretary, the National Office has been located in Nashville, and upon further research, it was determined that Nashville was the best location for a permanent office. Property on Marriott Drive was secured in 2005 and construction began. National Office staff moved into the new headquarters in July, 2006.

National FOP President Chuck Canterbury said, “This move allows the FOP to have a stable home and allows for the FOP to maintain trained professional employees who provide unrivaled member service.”

Two National Leaders

Ralph Orms and Jerry Atnip both served long tenures as National Secretary of the FOP and both died while in office.

Orms, who died November 28, 1992, began his career in law enforcement in 1967 in Louisville, Kentucky. He was elected National Secretary in 1985 and was still serving in that position at the time of his death.

Atnip assumed the office of National Secretary during a special election held in January 1993 after Orms’ death. At the subsequent biennial National Conference the following August, Atnip was re-elected and served as National Secretary until his death on August 29, 2004.

“These two men contributed to the professionalism of the Fraternal Order of Police and their service led to standards in member services that can only be emulated,” Canterbury said.

The National Fraternal Order of Police is the oldest labor fraternal organization for law enforcement in the country. At the time the organization was formed, police were often forced to work seven days a week, 10-12 hours a day and never received paid time off. The FOP has continued an unparalleled growth and has maintained the reputation as the largest and most productive police labor organization in the United States.

In addition to the National Headquarters in Nashville, the FOP has a legislative office in Washington DC and a labor relations office in Columbus, Ohio.

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