



GERMAN AMERICAN POLICE ASSOCIATION

DANK Haus - German American Cultural Center
4740 N Western Avenue
Chicago IL 60625

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July 14, 2026

Dear Community Leaders. Friends and Members:

Established in Chicago, Illinois in 1975, the German American Police Association (GAPA), is a nonpolitical, fraternal organization comprised of duly sworn Law Enforcement Officers of Germanic heritage. The majority of our members are active or retired from the Chicago Police Department, Cook County Sheriffs Office, Illinois State Police, as well as officers from various suburban departments within the Chicago metropolitan area and Federal Agencies. Our ranks include or have included the entire span from Academy Cadets, Officers/Agents, Sergeants, Lieutenants, Commanders, Chief of Police, Sheriff's, Superintendents, and State Police Directors. Associate membership is allowed to non law enforcement officers who wish to promote the ideal and goals of our association. We also have established and maintain contacts with German American Law Enforcement Associations throughout the country, as well as the Berlin and Munich Police Departments in Germany.

While primarily a social organization, we are also a charitable one committed to supporting honorable causes with the German American community, and those of Law Enforcement. Current charities include but are not limited to the DANK School, Chicago Police Department Gold Star Fund, Police Chaplains Ministries, Chicago Police Memorial Fund, Cook County Memorial Fund and Tunnel to Towers. We also award three yearly scholarships in honor of three German American Officer's who were killed in the line of duty; those being Casper Lauer who was the first Chicago Police Officer killed in the line of duty on September 19, 1854, Chicago Police Officer and Member Larry Vincent killed in the line of duty January 14, 1983 and Chicago Commander and Member Paul Bauer killed in the line of duty February 13, 2018.

On behalf of the German American Police Association, I am asking for your support via a purchase of an advertisement or a statement of well wishing in celebration of our annual Oktoberfest Dinner Dance to be held on October 2nd, 2026 in conjunction with National German American Day on October 6th. Your advertisement or statement of well wishing will be published in our Anniversary booklet and distributed to our event attendees. A form for this purpose is attached to this letter.

If you require additional information or wish to attend our event in person, please feel free to contact me directly via email at presidentgapa@gmail.com.

Respectfully,

John Huinker, President
German American Police Association