

Donald Penix, Sr.
North Carolina Fraternal Order of Police
President

A law enforcement officer's mission is clear and simple – to serve and protect the citizens of their community. In the 40 years that Donald Penix, Sr. has been involved in law enforcement, that mission has never changed.

Yet, while the officer's mission is constant, other variables in law enforcement have changed since Penix first started on the job. He recognized the value of education in law enforcement. As a result, he made every attempt to acquire as much knowledge as he could in order to better serve the citizens of his community.



Penix began his law enforcement career as a Detective with the University of Tennessee Police Department in 1967. In 1973, he would leave for the Charlotte-Mecklenburg Police Department (CMPD).

Within two years of coming to work for the CMPD, Penix would receive his Advanced Law Enforcement Certificate from the State of North Carolina and his Associate Degree from Central Community College. In addition, he would serve in various roles including Bomb Technician with the Charlotte Mecklenburg Bomb Squad, Crime Lab Photographer with the Crime Scene Search Unit, and Field Training Officer. He served as Senior Police III at the time of his retirement in 1999

Penix joined the Fraternal Order of Police in 1968 while working in Tennessee. Throughout his nearly forty-year tenure with the FOP, he has served in a host of capacities, representing his colleagues on the local, state, and national levels.

Penix has served the bulk of his time with the FOP on the North Carolina state level. Whether it was his role as North Carolina State Secretary, a position in which he served for eight years, or his work as North Carolina President, he has played a major role in much of the success of the North Carolina Fraternal Order of Police (NC FOP) in the last 15 years.

Penix is currently in the middle of his fourth term as the North Carolina State President. Under his leadership as State President, he has increased member enrollment and improved the financial situation of the NC FOP. Penix has also been credited for his work in getting new lodges started throughout the state.

In 2006, Penix was announced the recipient of the Mark R. Tucker Memorial Award. This award is presented yearly by the North Carolina Fraternal Order of Police to a member who displays dedication and tenacity in the furtherance of the ideals and values of the Fraternal Order of Police. The award is named for Mark Tucker, an officer who died in the line of duty in 2004.

Donald currently lives in Charlotte with his wife Mary Ann. His oldest son Donald, Jr., and daughter-in-law, Norma, are both officers with the Charlotte Mecklenburg Police Department.