

CHICAGO POLICE DEPARTMENT

PAX 501

Matt L. Rodriguez, *Superintendent of Police*



VOLUME 95

7 NOVEMBER 1995

NUMBER 5

THE HUNDRED CLUB OF COOK COUNTY

It has recently come to my attention that some Department members are unfamiliar with The Hundred Club of Cook County, and with the year-in, year-out contributions that this fine organization makes to our families in time of need.

The Hundred Club is a civilian, not-for-profit organization founded in 1966, whose purpose, in their own words, is "...to help provide for the surviving spouses and dependents of law enforcement officers, firefighters and paramedics who lose their lives in the line of duty." Benefits are extended to the families of any qualifying federal, state, county or local officer, firefighter or paramedic stationed in, and working out of, Cook County.

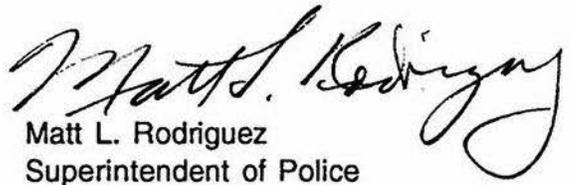
At present, The Hundred Club of Cook County has over 600 members, each of whom contributes \$200 per year. These funds are then held in reserve. Within 24 hours of the line-of-duty death of a firefighter or police officer, a Hundred Club representative will accompany the Superintendent, Chief or Commissioner to the member's home, where a check in the sum of \$4,000 is given to the surviving family, to supply funds for funeral and other immediate cash needs. Thereafter, The Hundred Club pays off the family's debts up to \$50,000.

In addition to those benefits set out above, The Hundred Club also provides funds for the continuing education of surviving spouses and children of the police officer, firefighter or paramedic killed in the line of duty.

Each year, The Hundred Club Valor Award for outstanding public service is presented to a Chicago police officer, a Chicago firefighter, a non-city law enforcement officer and a non-city firefighter. The Hundred Club Valor Award consists of a handsome plaque, a gold wristwatch, and a uniform-approved campaign medal and ribbon bar.

Why does The Hundred Club of Cook County contribute so much to us, while asking nothing in return? That is perhaps best explained in the words of Hundred Club President Ralph G. Scheu: "We do it to express in our own civilian way our gratitude for the job you all do for us and to acknowledge our obligation to your families in the best way we know how. The thin line, red or blue, is all that keeps us from anarchy, and we know it."

Since February, 1967, The Hundred Club of Cook County has expended more than \$4 million for education and financial assistance to the families of police officers and firefighters killed in the line of duty. On behalf of our entire Department, I offer our sincere gratitude to this outstanding organization.



Matt L. Rodriguez
Superintendent of Police