



RETIRED MEN'S ASSOCIATION OF GREENWICH, Inc. (RMA)
Invites you to its meeting **October 23, 2019 at 11:00 a.m.**
First Presbyterian Church, Lafayette Place, Greenwich, CT

Captain Jesse Paluch

“Wildlife Crimes Scene Investigation Training in South Africa: On the Front Lines of the Poaching Crisis”



Captain Jess Paluch, 3rd from left

New York State’s most successful undercover initiative targeting the illegal trade in elephant ivory, Operation White Gold, resulted in a record amount of ivory seized from NYC’s black market. Dozens of corporations and individuals were implicated, charged with felony level illegal commercialization of endangered species. Of those charged, 100% were convicted, and fines and donations to wildlife charitable organizations totaled nearly 1 million dollars. A highly publicized Ivory Crush was held in Central Park that destroyed nearly 2 tons of illegal ivory. This sent a message that New York State will not stand idly by as the world’s elephant population is decimated due to demand for their tusks.

Captain Jesse Paluch of the New York State Environmental Conservation Police will speak on the success of Operation White Gold and how it has led NYS to forge lasting relationships with charitable organizations specializing in the protection of our world’s endangered species. One of these organizations, Wild Tomorrow Fund, makes it their mission to support anti-poaching unit field rangers in South Africa; they fight on the front lines of the elephant and rhinoceros poaching crisis. Through the relationship forged with Wild Tomorrow Fund, a noble concept was created. In 2018, just months after the conclusion of Operation White Gold, a few good men and women from New York State’s Environmental Conservation Police traveled to South Africa and presented a field course in Wildlife Crimes Scene Investigation and Forensic Evidence Collection to anti-poaching unit rangers from South Africa, Mozambique, and e-Swatini. A similar training course is planned for fall of 2020.

Captain Paluch has 19 years of service as a sworn police officer with the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation. A graduate of the 13th Basic School for Uniformed Conservation Officers, he served as an Environmental Conservation Police Officer from 2000-2008. In 2008, he was promoted to Environmental Conservation Investigator, a plainclothes unit with a focus on long term investigations into misdemeanor and felony level fish, wildlife and environmental crimes. In 2014, Paluch was promoted to Investigative Lieutenant, in charge of BECI operations in New York City. Paluch has focused much of his pro-active time targeting the illegal commercialization of endangered and threatened species and protected marine species. In 2018, Paluch was promoted to Investigative

Captain, supervising BECI operations in all 9 regions of New York State. The Bureau of Environmental Crimes Investigation (BECI) currently has a staff 40, all of whom fall under Captain Paluch's command.

Next week, October 30: Randall Atcheson, Pianist and Minister of Music of the First Presbyterian Church, Greenwich, "Randall Atcheson at the Piano: Carnegie Hall Preview."

The Greenwich Retired Men's Association offers a free program every Wednesday that is open to the public, both men and women; no reservations are required. Our social break starts at 10:40 a.m. followed promptly by our speaker at 11:00 a.m. Programs are at the First Presbyterian Church, 1 West Putnam in Greenwich. For additional information see www.greenwichrma.org or contact info@greenwichrma.org