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# DWAYNE STANTON

## PRIVATE EYE



As hard as it was to live here, imagine how hard it was to be a cop. They couldn't lock themselves inside and pretend everything was a-okay. The only way to make DC more livable and likable was to confront criminals head-on. It was an understandably difficult time to be a cop.

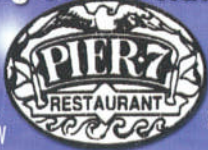
Dwayne Stanton wasn't just a cop during this time, he was a cop in homicide, which meant, as he puts it, "We handled every death that went to the medical examiner: homicides, suicides, accidental deaths, and industrial deaths. If a car hit a tree we didn't handle it, but if a tree fell on a car we did handle that." Needless to say, he was a busy man, and he made detective grade one by 1990 after less than ten years on the force (there were only 100 other people at that level), Dwayne originally intended to be a cop for just one year before returning to his first employment choice: computer programming, but despite his programming intentions, given his education experiences it's still surprising he would choose computers over law enforcement.

**H**e grew up on the northeast side of DC with his mom, a sister and two brothers, and his introduction to wielding authority came at a young age. "I tell people my public service began when I was in my elementary school's safety patrol," Dwayne jokes, "and I worked my way up to captain." After thoughts of becoming a automotive mechanic were trumped by thoughts of keeping his uniform clean, 17-year-old Dwayne enrolled in the US Army and was stationed in Germany, where he attended the University of Maryland, received Military Police Training and became an MP while stationed in Stuttgart. "I enjoyed working in the military police and helping people and extending that olive branch," Dwayne says, "but I still didn't know if law enforcement was my niche."

Dwayne did the last six months of his four year commitment at Fort Benning in Georgia, was honorably discharged and returned home to DC. This was the early 1980s and computers were easing their way into everyday life, so Dwayne studied programming and operations at a local computer school and got a position in the Office of Personnel Management. "I had some money saved, got a new car and was a veteran so I felt pretty good about myself," Dwayne laughs. Unfortunately, the computing industry wasn't quite over the hump, and when President Reagan called for a reduction in work force, Dwayne was let go since he was one of OPM's last hires. "I thought I'd join the police force for a year," he says, "and then the government would settle down and I'd go back and do the computer thing." Computers, of course, continued to take off, but so did Dwayne's police career and he never reconsidered going back. After finishing the police academy he was assigned to where he was born and raised, the 4<sup>th</sup> District

When the crack epidemic of the late 1980s turned Washington, DC into the murder capital of the United States by the early 90s, the city arguably hit the lowest point of its 200 year history. With drug dealers and killers dominating the news, concerned citizens often stayed indoors and always avoided bad neighborhoods. Others didn't want to deal with it at all, and between 1980 and 2000 the city's population fell by more than 10%. The city hadn't been this divided since the Civil War.

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Though not front page news, Dwayne's first arrest was one of his most meaningful. It was December 23<sup>rd</sup> and he was on foot patrol in a foot of snow. He heard a woman scream, "He has my bag!" and saw a guy running. Dwayne caught him, arrested him and returned the woman's bag.

"She'd just been to the five and dime and bought a waste basket and some slacks," he says, "but she was so happy to get that package back that it brought so much joy to me and I knew then I was in the right place, so I continued my police career." Dwayne was only in uniform for 1.5 years before being made plainclothes investigator on the homicide squad. Shortly thereafter the city promoted him to detective, and by 1990 he made detective grade one.

The keys to success in such a dangerous division during such dangerous times were results, and Dwayne says, "It was so impersonal back then that people would come up on the street and say, 'How many murders did we have last night?' so I used to go to Baltimore just to see people I didn't know. But it was very rewarding and satisfying to bring closure when there's so much death and destruction all the time."

Not only did Dwayne's arrests earn him promotions, he also became a training coordinator for investigations. His practices were bringing in bad guys even when he wasn't on patrol. But then his career was cut short, and though fortunately he wasn't victimized by violence, his homicide division was. Two days before Thanksgiving 1994, a young man with a grudge walked into police headquarters, went to the cold case squad and shot and killed Dwayne's sergeant and two FBI agents. "It's not like on TV," Dwayne remembers. "You don't go home and go to sleep. My whole world came crashing down."



After struggling to get over it for years, he made the difficult decision to retire in 1999. Retirement provided little rest and less relaxation as Dwayne didn't entirely leave his past behind him, freelancing as a security consultant and private investigator. "I enjoy it because it's still what I know, what I like, and what I enjoy," he says. "I've done some homicides, sexual assaults, missing persons, cheating spouses, civil investigations, and insurance claims."

His most notable case came while working with his partner, J.T. McCann, when they were hired by Chandra Levy's parents to investigate their daughter's disappearance. While searching Rock Creek Park they found some of her remains that the police department originally missed. Dwayne has also had personal protection jobs for clients including Stevie Wonder and investigative jobs for well known attorneys such as criminal attorney Billy Martin.

Best of all, retirement has given Dwayne more time to spend with his family (he has seven kids: daughters Yolanda (29 years old) and Kimberly (23), step daughters Jennifer (24) and Janelle (22), and sons Aaron (13), and twins Dwayne and David (9) though he still finds time to provide services for clientele in the Washington metropolitan area. "I love my position," he says. "I love going out and doing things downtown." ■



Refreshen  
Rejuvenate  
REJOICE

Dr. Ravi Dahiya's personal insight on  
the evolution of cosmetic surgery

Sometimes as a surgeon the best advice I can give someone is not to undergo surgery. This is certainly an unexpected comment from a facial plastic surgeon. However, it is indeed true due to the number of alternative options available for select situations. However, surgery can not be replaced in many cases and provides unsurpassed results. Nonetheless, new technologies in the way of dermal fillers provide an excellent option for many patients. The dermal filler that most people are familiar with is collagen, which is rarely used now. Restylane® and Radiesse® are two of the more commonly used filler materials today. Other new products that have good track records in Canada and Europe are near approval here in the United States. All of these products allow us to sculpt the face without surgery. These new fillers are safer and longer lasting than previous options which significantly improves results and most importantly patient satisfaction. Both Restylane® and Radiesse® are made of substances that are not derived from human or animal sources and are safely absorbed by the body so the risks are minimal. With experience these fillers can be used for a variety of purposes including creating fuller lips, filling in "frown lines" and other deep wrinkles. In select cases, even the "bags" below the eyes can be corrected through injections of the dermal fillers. Treatments can be performed in the office within about twenty minutes with only minor redness and swelling. Sometimes these injections can be used in combination with a more minor surgical procedure to yield a dramatic result.

Being a facial plastic surgeon provides me the constant opportunity to see the anatomy under the surface of the skin in the face. This proves to be invaluable when deciding at what depth to inject filler materials so that I can get a natural looking yet effective result. Having done my fellowship several years ago in Toronto, Canada I gained experience with filler materials such as Artecoll® and Juvederm® which are yet to arrive to the US market. Knowing how to use these products and more importantly knowing their long term safety (as I am still in contact with some of these patients) makes me eager to use them when they become available to my patients here. ■