

AFTER 40 YEARS HE IS STILL SERVING THE CITIZENS OF LEXINGTON

By 2018 Summer Intern Sydney Banks

Fayette Commonwealth's Detective Mike Malone recently celebrated 40 years of service at the Fayette Commonwealth's Attorney Office. "Because no one can recall an employee being here any longer, I am officially declared Mike the longest servicing employee," declared Lou Anna Red Corn (the third Commonwealth's Attorney for whom Mike has served.) The Office commemorated the occasion with a picnic and a personalized Mike Malone fan.

Lou Anna asked me to interview Mike for this story and have him reflect upon his 40 years of service.

Life was great in Patrick Malone's home in East Cleveland, Ohio. His mother, Marguerite Malone, made sure she provided everything she could for Michael and his brother growing up. Patrick Malone, commonly referred to as Mike Malone graduated from Shaw High School in 1967. After graduating he was determined to enlist in the Coast Guard and did so the summer of '67 at the age of 17.

Mike values the experience of serving in the Coast Guard because he did not feel like he was disciplined enough to attend college. He decided to enlist in the Coast Guard because he felt like he needed to "grow up" some more.



Mike while serving on the United States Coast Guard Cutter Ariadne in St. Petersburg, Florida.

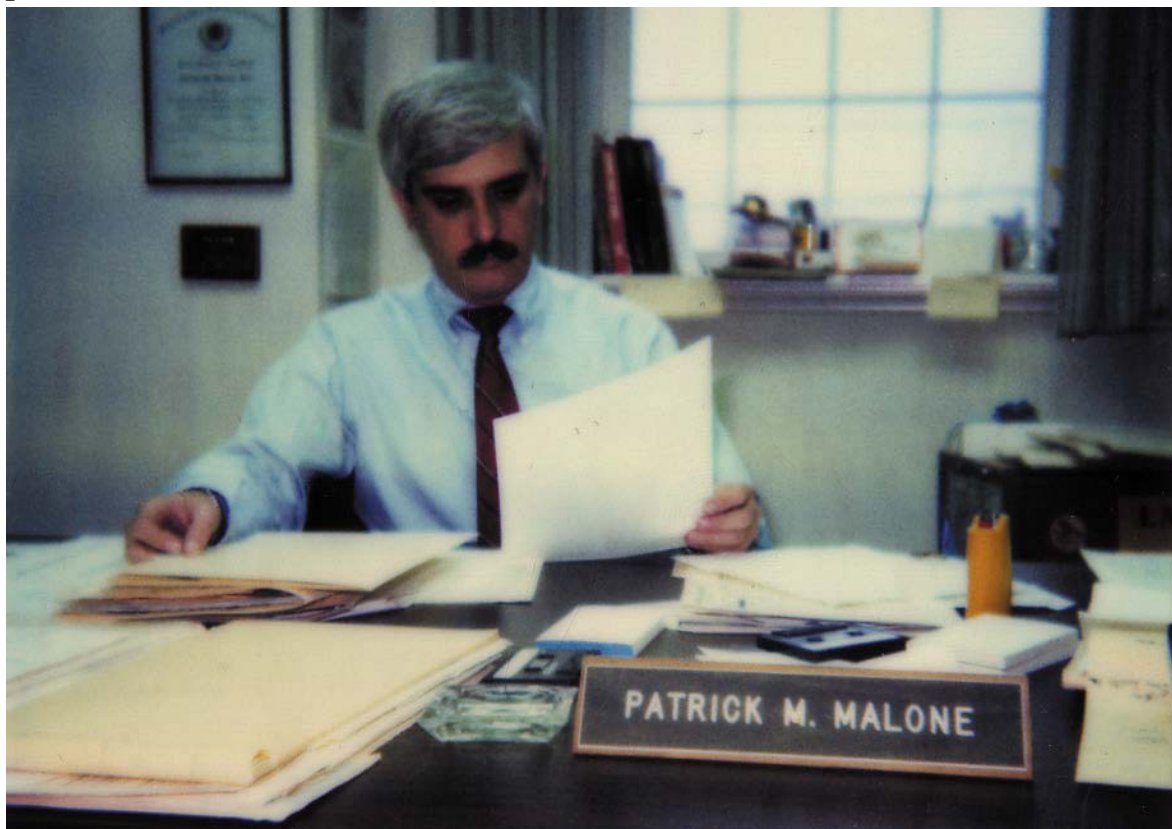
Shortly after joining the Coast Guard, Mike's mother moved to Kentucky, and he had a shipmate from Paris, Kentucky. Mike began considering where he was going to college because he knew he did not want to be in the Coast Guard for the remainder of his life. He was interested in law enforcement. That influence may have come from his father who was a US Marshall, something he figured out much later in life.

Mike had the opportunity to apply to multiple colleges in Ohio, or in Baltimore, Maryland (where he was stationed with the Coast Guard). However, he chose the University of Kentucky. Between mother who was in Kentucky and advice from his native Kentuckian shipmate, the choice was an easy one.

At the University of Kentucky, Mike majored in political science. He was always aware that he wanted to go to law school. He graduated from the University of Kentucky in 1975 and immediately after graduation attended law school. He had various options for law school such as Wake Forest, University of Louisville, and Cleveland State but he chose UK Law due to his interest in staying in Lexington.

After Mike's first year of law school, he was looking for a summer job. A girlfriend at the time was working for the Commonwealth Attorney's Office and he decided to apply for an internship and received it. Mike prides himself on being one of the first interns for the Commonwealth Attorney's Office. He continued interning for the office throughout law school. After graduation he became an unofficial employee until he passed

the



bar.

Mike's office at the Commonwealth's Attorney Office 1988.

Mike began working full time for the Commonwealth Attorney's office after the bar exam. He has had roughly 375 trials, 60 of which being homicides. Mike says his specialty was homicide cases. Throughout the cases, the most memorable one Mike described as the case that went against the current societal norms and proved the justice system to be essentially fair.

The victim in this case was a woman who was found murdered in a burning car on Bryan Station. One of the two assailants were later identified as the girlfriend of the woman's son. The details are as followed; the woman opens up the door for the two perpetrators and they beat her to death then rob her. After, they put her body inside her car drove it off onto Briar Hill Road, and set the car to flames. The victim was an African-American woman, and the two perpetrators were a Caucasian man and woman duo. The sentencing resulted in both of them receiving the death penalty and Mike remembers it being a rare local case of a white person, or persons in this case, getting convicted for the murder a black woman.



Commonwealth Attorney Larry Roberts and his assistants 1982. From left to right: Dave Marye, Connie Malone, Kevin Horne, Mike Malone, Larry Roberts, Bennie Hicks, and Joe Bouvier.

The jump from prosecution to detective work stemmed from Mike getting older and feeling the need to retire. He stated that he had done prosecution long enough, yet he wasn't old enough to not have a job. He considered going into private practice, or even becoming a defense attorney but neither of these options felt right. He enjoyed the investigative parts of being a prosecutor and decided that becoming a detective was the best plan for his second career.

Separate and apart from his part-time detective job, Mike also worked for the Kentucky Legislative Ethics Commission as Enforcement Counsel from 2007 until earlier this year. In that role he investigated and prosecuted complaints filed against state legislators and lobbyists.

During his free time, Mike likes to ride motorcycles, watch hockey, and participate in the annual shooting contest put on by Bluegrass Crime Stopper. As Mike's legacy is beginning to form, he would like the readers to know that throughout his entire career, he has always tried to be the "People's Lawyer." The People's Lawyer is best defined as trying to do the right thing while following the law. He hopes that throughout his many years here, at the Commonwealth Attorney's Office, he has made Lexington a much safer community.#