

# DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE



The law enforcement community has lost two extraordinary and foundational leaders. It is with deep sadness that the NTOA acknowledges the passing of Director Emeritus Mike Foreman on Jan. 16, 2026, and of our founder, John Kolman, on March 6, 2026. Both men were instrumental in shaping this organization and exemplified the very best of our profession. Their legacy, leadership and unwavering commitment to saving lives will continue to guide us forward. As you see on the cover, this issue of *The Tactical Edge* honors Mike Foreman. Our summer issue will be dedicated to John Kolman.

The strength of any association is found not only in its mission, but in the character of those who dedicate their lives to advancing it. Mike and John's leadership was deeply rooted in integrity, humility and an unwavering commitment to others. They gave freely of their time and experience, and always were willing to mentor, guide and support those who followed in their footsteps. Their sole purpose was never personal recognition, but rather the continual advancement of the tactical profession and the people within it.

The impact they had on the SWAT community cannot be overstated. They helped shape what it is today, setting the standard not only for operational excellence but also for professionalism, character and selfless service that define who we are. The example they set will continue to guide us for years to come.

While their loss is immeasurable, our responsibility moving forward is clear. We must ensure that their legacy is not simply remembered but actively carried forward. We honor them best by continuing the work they were so passionate about — by striving for excellence, supporting one another and holding ourselves to the same high standards they lived by every day.

Their influence remains with us in the culture they helped build and in each of us who carries their lessons forward. It is now our duty to advance that legacy and ensure that future generations benefit from the foundation they so selflessly created.

Please take a moment to read the tribute to Mike Foreman on page 22 of this issue. John Kolman will be honored in the next edition of *The Tactical Edge*.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Thor Eells".

Thor Eells  
Executive Director