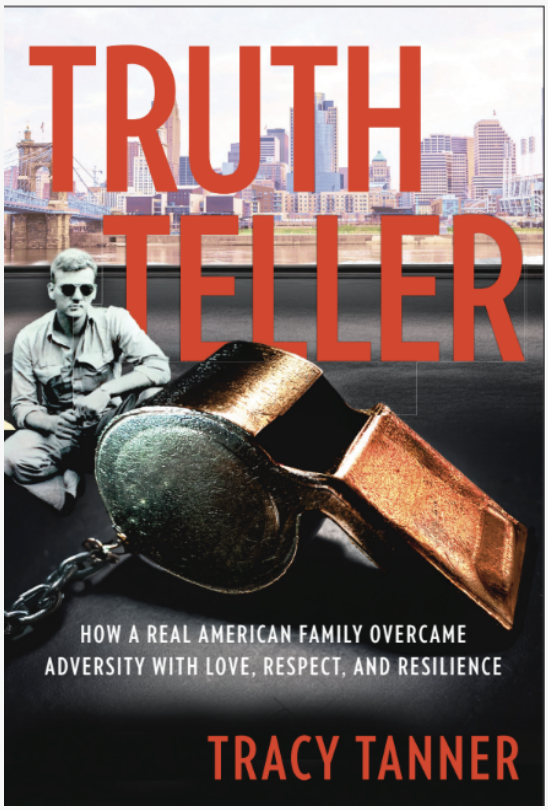
75 Years After a Police Corruption Investigation Captivated Cincinnati, One Family Tells The Story History Left Behind

Tracy Tanner's nonfiction memoir uncovers the lasting human cost of one man's decision to expose corruption and the resilience that shaped generations



Cover of Truth Teller: How a Real American Family Overcame Adversity With Love, Respect, and Resilience, a new memoir by author Tracy Tanner.

ORANGE COUNTY, CA, UNITED STATES, September 15, 2026 /EINPresswire.com/ -- In 1951, headlines across Ohio chronicled one of Cincinnati's most closely watched police corruption investigations as towing company owner Eddie Melzer testified publicly about an alleged kickback scheme involving members of the city's police department. The hearings dominated local news. Reporters documented the testimony. The public followed the scandal.

What history largely failed to record was what happened after the hearing ended.

Seventy-five years later, Eddie Melzer's youngest daughter, author and technology executive Tracy Tanner, has reconstructed that forgotten chapter in “Truth Teller: How A Real American Family Overcame Adversity with Love, Respect, and Resilience,” a deeply researched work of narrative nonfiction that blends documented history, family memoir and personal investigation to tell the story of the people who lived with the consequences long after the headlines disappeared.

Built from more than 130 archived newspaper articles, family interviews and decades of personal research, Truth Teller shifts the narrative from the public corruption investigation itself to the extraordinary resilience of an American family determined to rebuild its life after choosing integrity over silence.

"My father's testimony lasted three hours during the 10-day hearing," Tanner said. "Its impact

lasted a lifetime. History preserved the investigation, but it never preserved what happened to our family afterward. This book is about the quiet cost of courage—and the resilience it took to rebuild."



Tracy Tanner, author of Truth Teller: How a Real American Family Overcame Adversity With Love, Respect, and Resilience.

The book traces the Melzer family's journey from Cincinnati to Columbus, Ohio, where they rebuilt their business and their lives. Tanner grew up as the youngest of five children on the family property that housed its junkyard, towing operation and auto-parts business. While the public remembered the investigation, the family lived with the lasting effects of public scrutiny, economic hardship and the challenge of starting over.

Years later, while searching for answers about her childhood, Tanner began examining newspaper archives and discovered an extensive public record documenting her father's role in the investigation. Those discoveries became the foundation for Truth Teller, transforming a personal search into a broader examination of ethical courage, institutional accountability, family resilience and the enduring impact of telling the truth.

> “As I researched my father's story, I realized this wasn't just our family's history. It's an American story about integrity, consequences and hope. Every family carries stories worth preserving.”
>
> *Tracy Tanner*

More than a historical account, Truth Teller is a multigenerational memoir about courage, loyalty, entrepreneurship, sacrifice and the quiet strength of families whose experiences rarely appear in the public record. The book also recognizes the role of Tanner's mother, Gini Melzer, whose determination helped hold the family together through years of uncertainty.

Tanner earned a bachelor's degree from The Ohio State University and an MBA from the University of Redlands before building a career in technology, business development and strategy. She now lives in Southern California, where she writes and speaks on resilience, ethical leadership, family legacy and the importance of preserving personal histories.

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an American story about integrity, consequences and hope. Every family carries stories worth preserving."

Published by Oak & Rail Press, Truth Teller: How A Real American Family Overcame Adversity with Love, Respect, and Resilience is available in paperback, hardcover and ebook formats through major booksellers, including Amazon and IngramSpark.

About the Book
“Truth Teller: How A Real American Family Overcame Adversity with Love, Respect, and Resilience” is a work of narrative nonfiction combining historical research, memoir and investigative storytelling. Drawing on more than 130 archived newspaper articles, family interviews and personal records, the book revisits Cincinnati's 1951 police corruption investigation through the eyes of the family who lived with its lasting consequences.

About Tracy Tanner
Tracy Tanner is an author, entrepreneur, technology executive and speaker. Raised as the youngest of five children on her family's junkyard and towing business in Columbus, Ohio, she was shaped by her father Eddie Melzer's stand against police corruption. She earned a bachelor's degree from The Ohio State University and an MBA from the University of Redlands before building a successful career in technology, strategy and business development. She lives in Southern California, where she writes and speaks about resilience, ethical leadership, family legacy and the enduring power of truth.

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