# LOCAL HEROES WHO PAID THE ULTIMATE SACRIFICE

Houston Police Officers
Killed in the line of duty

# Officer C. Edward Foley 1860

March 10, 1860
Gunfire—Market Area/Downtown




DOB—Unknown, Age Unknown
Badge—Unknown
Final Resting Place—Unknown
City—Unknown

On the morning of March 10, 1860, Officer Foley was attending to his duties in the market. Michael Flock attempted to interfere, and Foley struck him. Flock fled the scene, retrieved a double-barreled shotgun, and returned to the market, where he shot Foley dead on the spot. During the ensuing uproar, there was some talk of lynching Flock, but the police carried the prisoner off to jail, in the hope the law would deal justly with him. Flock did not say why he interfered with Officer Foley. The coroner's jury has returned the following verdict:

"We, the jury, duly impaneled, tried and sworn this the 10th day of March 1860 to set upon the body of one deceased Officer C. Foley having heard the evidence of several witnesses, say that the deceased came to his death by wounds received by a double-barreled gun, discharged from the hands of Michael Flock."

Source: Houston Public Library, Texas Room Newspaper Archives Microfilm Tri Weekly Telegraph Houston Texas Vol. 61 November 2, 1859-October 30, 1861
Specific File: Saturday March 10, 1860; Houston Telegraph Newspaper.

# Officer Richard Snow 1882

March 17, 1882
Gunfire—5th Ward




DOB—Unknown, Age Unknown
Badge—Unknown
Final Resting Place—Unknown
City—Unknown

Officer Richard Snow was at the Home of Austin Johnson on the night of Saturday March 17, 1882, on a call to keep the peace at a church festival in the 5th Ward near the International Compress Company. Around 10:30 pm, Officer Snow sensed trouble from the crowd and he called for another officer to come help. In the throng, he recognized Henry Campbell, an African American man, who resisted Snow's inquiries. When Campbell realized that Snow knew his identity, he assaulted the officer, knocking him to the ground. Snow attempted to arrest Campbell, and after a struggle, Campbell shot Snow just above the eye. He fell and got to his feet, where other officers picked him up. More help arrived and Campbell was arrested. A weapon was recovered at the scene.

Source: Houston Police Department Museum files. Officer Snow was identified as being killed in the line of duty by the Houston Police Museum through research into old records, files, and newspapers. He was entered into the "Last Roll Call" official List in 1986 by Officer Hair one hundred and four years after he was killed in the line of duty.

# Officer Henry Williams 1886

February 08, 1886
Gunfire—Main Street Beat/Preston Street

DOB—Unknown, Age Unknown
Badge—Unknown
Final Resting Place—Glenwood Cemetery
City—Houston, TX




On February 9, 1886, newspapers around the country carried the story of the murder of ~~a~~ Houston Police Officer Henry Williams. The New York Times, "A Policeman Murdered," "The Crime of a Man Driven Crazy by Strong Drink." The Galveston Daily News "Slain With a Six-Shooter," "More Bloodshed in the Bayou City" and the Dallas Morning News, "Tragedy in the Bayou City."

On Saturday night, February 6, 1886, Officer Williams was working his regular duty station in the downtown area, which was called the Main Street Beat. On that occasion, Officer Williams had attempted to arrest Kyle Terry for violation of a city ordinance. There had been an affray (a violent threat) at Usener's Saloon where the suspect was drinking and playing pool with friends. Officer Williams located the suspects after they had moved to Charley Tharonat's Saloon.

When Officer Williams attempted to make the arrest, the suspects scattered. Officer Williams followed the suspect to Jones Saloon. There Officer Jack White, who had joined Officer Williams, was able to make the arrest.

After Terry was taken to the station, he was found to be in possession of a pistol and charged. He bonded out and was told to appear in Mayor's Court, Monday morning at 10:00 a.m., February 8, 1886. According to testimony by the suspect and witnesses, Kyle Terry had left to go to court around 8:45 a.m.

After arriving, he found that the court was not in session and would not be till later that morning. Terry then walked to Market Square on the Preston Street side. Upon seeing Officer Williams standing in a crowd, Terry pulled his pistol and shot Officer Williams as he fell over a bystander trying to go for cover. There were several eyewitnesses, including a constable and several businessmen. Most agreed that it happened so fast that Officer Williams never had a chance to draw his gun.

One of the eyewitnesses, A. F. Larer, said in a sworn statement, "I started across the street. I heard the prisoner (Kyle Terry) make some remarks. I saw him draw from his pocket what I supposed to be a .45 caliber colt revolver. I saw Mr. Terry point toward the deceased, and heard him say, 'I am determined to kill,' or words to that effect. For several seconds there seemed to be a scattering or running in-between Mr. Terry and Williams. Mr. Terry had a pistol pointed at Mr. Williams and fired one shot right then, and several afterwards in quick succession. He did not fire until the parties that were in between got out of the way. I saw Sam Perkins, Deputy Constable, grab him or pin him, trying to keep him from shooting, but he would jerk his arms forward and fire; I think he fired three shots after Mr. Perkins caught hold of him. I think there were four shots fired in all. Mr. Perkins looked at me and asked me to come and help him, for God's sake, and for someone to come help him.

"When Mr. Terry fired the first shot, he was four or five feet from the deceased. Mr. Williams did not have any pistol out that I could see. I am positive I did not see any pistol in Mr. Williams' hand. Deceased Officer Williams held both hands forward, pushing Mr. Terry away before the first shot was fired. Mr. Williams was on the ground on his back after the first shot was fired. I saw a colored man fall down just before the first shot was fired, close to the gutter. I did not see Mr. Williams have hold of the colored man who fell down. Mr. Williams fell by the gutter and turned over and rolled in the gutter after he was shot. I heard Mr. Terry say after he shot Mr. Williams, 'I have killed you, you son a b-.' Mr. Scalon and Mr. Perkins had him then."

Sworn testimony like the above were taken by several witnesses and the inquest was concluded with the jury of inquest stating: "We, the jury, believe from the evidence before us that the deceased, Henry Williams, came to his death from a gunshot wound infected by one Kyle Terry, and that said pistol was held and fired by Kyle Terry, on February 8, 1886, in the city of Houston, Harris County."

The Galveston Daily News remembered Officer Williams this way: "Officer Henry Williams had lived in Houston from boyhood. He was considered a reliable officer and at the time of his death held one of the most responsible night beats in the city. His home was in the fourth ward north where he lived with his wife and two children."

Author's Note: In 1886, there were 22 police officers. The city marshal (Chief of Police) was Charles Wichmann. The newspaper articles that this information were taken from were given to the Police Museum, after much research by Ronald C. Van Raalte, who had made it his lifelong quest to identify all officers killed in the line of duty, nationwide.

Source—New York Times, February 9, 1886; Galveston Daily News, February 9, 1886; and Dallas Times Herald, February 9, 1886.

# Officer James E. Fenn 1891

March 15, 1891
Gunfire—Bill Davis Lounge—Preston Street




DOB—Unknown, Age 35
Badge—Unknown
Final Resting Place—Washington Cemetery
City—Houston, TX

On Saturday night, March 14, 1891, at 11 p.m., Officer James E. Fenn was shot and killed in the line of duty at the Davis Lounge on Preston Street. Fenn was answering a disturbance call at the lounge, according to an eyewitness. The officer, who had been talking to a friend of his in the band, noticed a man he thought had a pistol in his hand. Fenn approached the suspect when he turned towards the officer and fired the pistol into Officer Fenn's abdomen several times. Though critically wounded, the officer grasped the suspect and began struggling. The suspect then threw the pistol to an accomplice, who also tried to shoot Fenn, but the weapon misfired. At this time, both suspects then ran out the front door and disappeared into the darkness. Officer Fenn, although mortally wounded, made his way down the street, with the assistance of a citizen named Michael Dougherty, to Dr. Duffau's house, where Officer Fenn died at 1:30 a.m. Sunday morning. Only moments after his death, the buggy carrying his wife and three children pulled up at the front of the doctor's house. Officer Fenn was 35 years old.

On April 13, 1891, the city council passed a motion to pay Officer Fenn's widow and family one month's salary because of their "destitute" state. An investigation by Police Chief Wichmann the following morning at the Davis Lounge resulted in the arrest of Sam Ashwood at his home in the fifth ward. Ashwood confessed to being the man who attempted to shoot the injured officer when the gun misfired. He identified the murderer as Henry McGee, who he stated also lived somewhere in the fifth ward area.

According to Ashwood, the pistol belonging to McGee was a .44 caliber Ranger 'Bulldog,' which McGee carried in order to get even with Officer Fenn, who had arrested McGee several weeks prior to the shooting on a drunk and disorderly charge. No disposition of Sam Ashwood's case could ever be found.

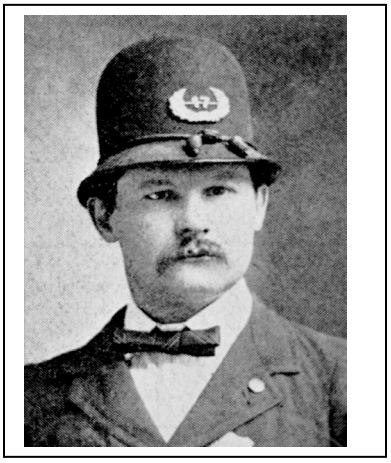
During the days and weeks following Officer Fenn's murder, many reports flooded the police station in regard to McGee's whereabouts, but none of the leads produced any additional arrests. It is generally considered McGee escaped to Louisiana where two of his brothers lived. However, in an attempt to exemplify our motto, *"no one assails me with impunity*," we proudly reprint this 1891 pickup (B.O.L.O.):

ATTENTION ALL OFFICERS:
PICKUP FOR CAPITAL MURDER OF A POLICE OFFICER
"Henry McGee, BIM, 30-35 years old, 5'6", slight build, dark complexion, mustache, small black hat, black "pantaloons," dark sack coat, white shirt with handkerchief around the neck the neck, rheumatism in left leg causing noticeable limp, last seen running east from Preston towards the railroad tracks."

Source—Houston Police Department Museum Files

# Officer William F. Weiss 1901

July 30, 1901
Gunfire—Congress at San Jacinto



DOB—03/07/1870, Age 31
Badge—17
Final Resting Place—Glenwood Cemetery
City—Houston, TX

The headlines of the Houston Daily Press announced news of the tragedy, "Two are Dead." Officer William Weiss was shot through the heart by John T. Vaughn. The circumstances leading up to the shooting of Officer Weiss began with the arrest of John T. Vaughn about 7:00 p.m. on July 29, 1901, for discharging a firearm through the window of his apartment. Officer Herman Youngst was the arresting officer.

After the arrest, Officer Youngst continued his tour of duty as beat officer near San Jacinto and Congress. Mr. Vaughn had apparently been released from the city jail after posting bond about 11:00 p.m. and had gone to his business and met his brother, Newt Vaughn.

Mr. R. E. Kahn, a local lawyer, was asked to go with the Vaughn brothers to find Officer Youngst. Apparently, Mr. John Vaughn had not picked up his property after the arrest and wished to ask the arresting officer how he should go about it. Mr. Kahn stated: "We walked up the street and met Bill Weiss (Officer W.F. Weiss) and Mr. Weiss asked me where I was going. I stated to him the purpose of the trip and Mr. Weiss then remembered, "Wait a minute and I'll go with you and show you where you can find Herman Youngst." The trio met Officer Youngst at the corner of San Jacinto and Congress where Officer Youngst directed Mr. Vaughn to the police station to inquire about his property and walked away to continue his tour of duty.

At approximately 1:00 p.m., the proprietor (J.B. Youan) of a local saloon at the corner of San Jacinto and Congress testified as follows: "John Vaughn and Kahn came into the saloon where Newt Vaughn had proceeded about 5 minutes. All three took a drink, walked out, and I saw Officer Youngst, Kahn and the two Vaughns standing on the sidewalk talking. A few minutes later, Kahn and a Mr. Keepuick came in to take a drink . . . I saw Officer Weiss and the two Vaughns standing in the west door of my saloon talking. I could not understand what their conversation was, but I saw Officer Weiss push Newt Vaughn back and John Vaughn say 'he is our friend.' and at the same time he pulled a pistol from his hip pocket and commenced shooting. Right after that, both the Vaughns ran through the saloon and John put the gun he had to his forehead, as though he was going to kill himself. The other one stopped him. John then went out the back door of the saloon."

Officers Herman Youngst, Henry Lee, and J. C. James heard the shots (three) and ran towards the sound. Officer Weiss had been killed almost instantly. Officers James and Lee went through the saloon and exited the back door behind a Japanese restaurant. As they did, Officer Lee was fired upon and returned fire. Both Lee and James were tangled up in a clothesline and both received cuts on their foreheads, but resumed the chase. The pursuit continued almost a full circle around the block to 1113 1/2 Congress where the mortally wounded John Vaughn surrendered and was carried down the stairs. This was just a few feet from where Officer Weiss lay dead. At the inquest, it was ascertained that Officer Lee had probably fired the fatal shot behind the Japanese restaurant and that the gun belonging to Mr. Vaughn was found there, as well as four spent rounds in its chamber. Officer Weiss was shot three times, twice in the chest and once in the back.

Officer William F. (Bill) Weiss was survived by his wife and two small children. Deputy Chief Thompson stated, "almost with tears in his eyes described him as true as steel and as brave as a lion." Officer Weiss was buried at Greenwood Cemetery at 4:00 p.m. on July 31, 1901.

Note: Six months later, Officers Herman Youngst and J.C. James were killed in the line of duty on December 12, 1901, in an unrelated incident. The widows of all three officers petitioned the city council for help since the loss of their husbands had left them destitute. City council awarded each family three months' back pay, which amounted to about $180 to each family.

Source—Houston Police Department Museum Files

# Officer John C. James 1901

December 12, 1901
Gunfire—Congress at San Jacinto



DOB—08/1867, Age 35
Badge—Unknown
Final Resting Place—Washington
City—Houston, TX

Houston Police Officers J. C. James and Herman Youngst were slain on December 11, 1901, at 4:00 p.m. in the afternoon in front of Yaden's Saloon. The murder occurred on the northwest corner of San Jacinto and Congress streets after an exchange of gunfire with Sid Preacher, who was killed by the return fire of the officers before they expired.

An eyewitness, Sam Stone, gave the following account of what happened that fateful afternoon: "I was coming down San Jacinto from the Herald office and saw a gang of men on Yaden's corner who seemed to be excited. I saw a buggy start to drive off. I saw Sid Preacher grab a double-barreled shotgun out of the buggy. By this time, I was at Yaden's corner. I saw an officer behind a telegraph pole with a six-shooter in his hand. The crowd scattered. Sid said, "Come on, you bastard." The officer behind the post walked out towards him, Sid being in the street with his shotgun. The officer had a pistol in his hand. Sid shot once, and the man fell. Herman, the other officer, ran out and Sid emptied the other barrel of his gun. Herman stood and reached for his pistol. Sid then advanced and hit Herman over the head with his gun. Herman then shot Sid and fell down. Sid fell on top of him. James then raised up one arm and shot Sid also. I then left." Chief of Police Blackburn was in the neighborhood and, after hearing the gunfire, rushed to the scene only to have Officer James die in his arms.

The ensuing investigation revealed that Preacher was a well-known gambling promoter in Houston and only the day before had been arrested by Officer B.W. Whittington. Whittington stated after Preacher's arrest, he overheard Preacher's attorney, Mr. J. E. Brockman, tell Preacher, "It's getting to be a damn pretty come-off that men are getting arrested every day and thrown into jail down there without a warrant. You arm yourself with a six-shooter and the next damn policeman who attempts to arrest you without a warrant, shoot his belly off!"

Chief Blackburn was outraged at Brockman's remarks, and on December 14, 1901, Judge Hill issued a warrant for Brockman's arrest. Chief Blackburn, Deputy Chief Thompson, and Detective Smith found Brockman at his office at 1107 1/2 Congress, where he was arrested, placed in the city jail and charged with the murders of Officers James and Youngst.

Officer John James had been a police officer for only a year and was 35 years of age. He was survived by his widow and three small children.

Source—Houston Police Department Museum Files

# Officer Herman Youngst 1901

December 12, 1901
Gunfire—Congress at San Jacinto



DOB –Age 58
Badge—5
Final Resting Place—Washington
City—Houston, TX

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Officer Herman Youngst had been the senior officer in the department, having been a 28-year veteran. Youngst had served in DeBray's Regiment of the 26th Texas Calvary during the Civil War.

Source—Houston Police Department Museum Files

# Deputy Chief of Police William Murphy 1910



April 1, 1910
Gunfire—904 Preston Ave

DOB—03/10/1862, Age 48
Badge—Unknown
Final Resting Place—Evergreen Cemetery
City—Houston, TX

On April 1, 1910, sometime before 9:00 p.m., Deputy Chief of Police William E. Murphy walked from the police station to the Acme Restaurant at 904 Preston Avenue. This was his custom as he was night chief and enjoyed the break every weekend. He was there sometime between 8:00 and 10:00 in the evening. The events after 9:00 are clouded with much speculation, but as can be determined they went as follows.

Shortly after 9:00 p.m., a newspaper boy had come into the Acme Restaurant for a cup of coffee. Chief Murphy was seated at the table, having finished his meal, and was rolling a cigarette as Earl McFarland came in holding a gun. A shot rang out and Chief Murphy exclaimed "Oh God" and slumped to the floor. Earl McFarland ran out the door and was apprehended several blocks down the street.

Deputy Chief Murphy became the highest-ranking officer ever to be killed in the line of duty. Chief Murphy was a Galveston Police Officer before being hired in Houston in 1902. He served as a detective until 1907, when he was promoted to Deputy Chief. He was then assigned to the night shift as night chief.

On Sunday, April 3, 1910, after his funeral, Chief William E. Murphy was laid to rest at Evergreen Cemetery. W. H. Perrett, Chief of Police, Galveston; George Ellis, Chief of Police, Houston, Texas; Frank Connelly; N.C. Jones; W.F. Kessler; and Pat Doughtery were the pallbearers. Mayor H. Baldwin Rice was also in attendance at the funeral. On February 9, 1911, Earl McFarland was found not guilty. Many witnesses gave their accounts and since Earl McFarland was previously a police officer, the defense argued for self-defense as a motive.

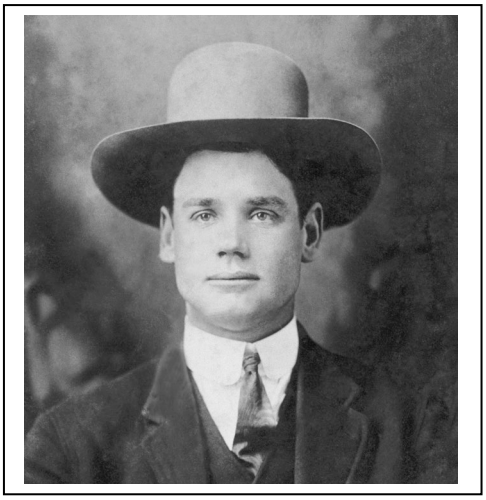
Deputy Chief of Police William E. Murphy was survived by his wife; his daughter, Margaret; his sons, Willie and George.

Note: In 1983 Margaret "Fannie" Murphy Dewey contacted the Houston Police Museum and asked that her father be included in the 'Last Roll Call" of the fallen officers listed as being killed in the line of duty. Through an investigation, Officer Hair, Director of the Houston Police, was able to verify that Deputy Chief Murphy was indeed killed in the line of duty and his name was added to the Last Roll Call list. This provided a closure to Fannie, who at the young age of 8 lost her father. On her deathbed she requested that a large framed photograph of her father be donated to the Police Museum where it now resides in a place of honor in memory of Chief Murphy.

Source—Houston Police Department Museum Files

# Officer John M. Cain 1911

August 3, 1911
Gunfire—Northside Railroad Crossing



DOB—03/04/1881, Age 30
Badge—
Final Resting Place—Magnolia Cemetery
City—Houston, TX

On the night of August 3, 1911, Officer John M. Cain was found shot to death on the railroad tracks along Nance Street near Buffalo Bayou. Earlier that day, an ex-con named Houston Sharp had hopped a freight train from Conroe to Houston. He got off the train at the La Porte tracks. As he walked along them towards Nance Street, he spotted Officer John Cain. Fearing arrest for hopping a freight train and carrying a pistol on his person, he hid in the shadow of a building until he thought the officer was gone.

As the ex-con proceeded, he almost met up with the police officer again. He pulled his pistol out of his pocket and ran along the tracks as fast as he could. Officer Cain called twice for him to stop and Houston Sharp, upon turning and seeing a pistol in the officer's hand, fired at him once, killing him. Houston Sharp fled from the scene and remained at large until he was arrested in 1915 for a number of burglaries and hold-ups.

The murder of Officer Cain remained a mystery for over four years. However, Detective T. A. Binford refused to give up. He worked relentlessly until he not only recovered the firearm used to kill Officer Cain, but secured a confession from Houston Sharp, who had bragged to inmates about killing a police officer.

On September 6, 1916 in the State District Court trial for Officer Cain's murder, Mr. Houston Sharp's fate was placed in the hands of the jury. Mr. Sharp was found guilty and sentenced to hang on September 8, 1916.

Source—Houston Police Department Museum Files

# Officer Joseph Free 1912

October 18, 1912
Gunfire—1020 McKee Street



DOB—1882, Age 30
Badge—
Final resting place - Prairie Lea Cemetery
City—Brenham, TX

Detective Joseph Free succumbed to injuries sustained on October 13th, 1912, while investigating a disturbance at the boarding house at 1020 McKee Street.

Residents of the rooming house complained to the police chief that a man had been making insulting and rude remarks to female occupants. The chief dispatched Detective Joseph Robert Free and a second detective to investigate. It was later learned that two mounted officers had answered a call at the rooming house earlier, but the subject was not in his room.

When the detectives arrived, several women told them the man was demented and had been acting crazy for days. They had not told the detectives he was armed with a large caliber pistol. As the two detectives entered the room, the man shot and wounded Detective Free. The other detective moved Detective Free out of the doorway and both detectives returned fire. The man was struck in the right chest and died at the scene.

Detective Free was struck on the right side of his abdomen and the bullet penetrated his liver. He died on October 18th, 1912.

Detective Free had served with the Houston Police Department for six years. He was survived by his wife and four children. The detective was buried in the Prairie Lea Cemetery in Brenham, Washington County.

Source—ODMP website

# Detective Isaac “Ike” Parsons 1914

May 24, 1914 at Barron St. (5th Ward)
Gunfire - Accidental




DOB—September 29, 1885, Age 29
Badge—
Final Resting place –Black Evergreen Cemetery
City--Houston, TX

Isaac Parsons was born in Texas and spent most of his life in the Houston area. He was a barber by trade, but he was also employed as a detective for the Houston Police Department. He was highly regarded as the most valued **black officer** serving in the department. Parsons served in the position of detective under the command of Chief of Police, Ben S. Davidson.

Detective Parsons was on duty on Saturday May 23, 1914, patrolling the near north side of Houston, trying to arrest a male suspect who was terrorizing the neighborhood with a rifle. Chief Davidson had assigned Officer John Richardson to work with Detective Parsons. Parsons had called Night Chief Dunman to inform him that he would not be able to come to accompany the other officer. He had gone into the area alone in an attempt to apprehend the suspect. Officer Richardson was assigned to work with Officer Edmund Cardona instead.

Neither of the two officers was aware that Sheriff’s Deputy Arthur Taylor, who had only been commissioned for a day, was also working in the same area and searching for the same male suspect. The officers also did not know that Parsons was already in the area looking for the suspect alone.

Officers Richardson and Cordona rode the midnight Liberty Road trolley car out of Houston to the intersection of Nance and Schwartz streets. Upon arrival into the area, they began to talk to the neighborhood residents about the male suspect. At approximately 12:35 am, they heard gunshots. Officers Richardson and Cordona were aware that another pair of officers (Bryson and Lyons) were also in the area looking for the male suspect. They ran to assist these officers. Deputy Taylor and Parsons, also hearing the gunshots, ran to the same area. Officer Richardson saw a male running toward him in the darkness. He shined his pocket light on the male and at this time he noticed he (Deputy Taylor) had a pistol in his hand. Officer Richardson ordered the male to stop and throw down his pistol. After the male refused, Richardson began shooting, striking and killing him. Next, Officer Richardson had dropped his light, but he and Cordona saw the other male (Parsons) approaching them with his arms raised and a pistol in his hand. They began to fire, striking him four times and killing him. Neither Parsons nor Tylor fired their weapons.

Upon closer observation, Richardson and Cordona recognized Detective Parsons, but not Deputy Taylor, because of his short tenure as a Deputy Sheriff. Westheimer Ambulance took the officers’ bodies to the morgue. Chief Davidsons immediately suspended Officers Richardson and Cordona. They were locked up pending an examination trial. Bond was fixed at $250 by Justice of the Peace, W.T. McDonald. The officers admitted it was a case of mistaken identity.

Source—Researched by Deputy Doug Hudson, Harris County Sherriff’s Department. Houston Post, Houston Chronicle, Houston Public Library.

# Officer Rufus H. Daniels 1917

August 23, 1917
Gunfire—Mutilated, Camp Logan

DOB—1861, Age 56
Badge—
Final Resting Place—Glenwood Cemetery
City—Houston, TX



# Officer Edwin G. Meineke 1917

August 23, 1917
Gunfire—Shot, Camp Logan

DOB—11/26/1893, Age 23
Badge—
Final Resting Place—Pilgrims Rest Cemetery
City—Bellville, TX



Revised June 2023

# Officer Horace Clifton Moody 1917

August 23, 1917
Gunfire—Shot, Camp Logan

DOB—09/02/1969, Age 47
Badge—
Final Resting Place—Hollywood Cemetery
City--Houston, TX



# Officer Ira Devoud Raney 1917

August 23, 1917
Gunfire, Mutilated, at Camp Logan

DOB—4/19/1878, Age 39
Badge—
Final Resting Place—Evergreen Cemetery
City—Houston, TX



# Officer Ross Patten 1917

September 8, 1917 (16 days after the riot)
Gunfire–Shot, Camp Logan

DOB—03/21/1988, Age 29
Badge—
Final Resting Place—Hart Magee Oates Singleton Cemetery
City—Houston, TX




CAMP LOGAN

During the month of August 1917, the temperature in the City of Houston hovered around 100 degrees. One newspaper reported the city as experiencing "a period of hot weather during August that has seldom been seen in Houston for such an extended length of time." However, it proved to be that August 23, 1917, was "the hottest day of the year," in more ways than one. This was the day of the well-known and controversial Camp Logan Riot.

In August of 1917, America found itself in the Great War, and young men were answering the call in support of their country. New recruits and seasoned veterans alike prepared for war. This included the 24th infantry, an all-black unit with a few white officers. The unit had fought Native Americans, the Spanish on San Juan Hill, Filipino rebels, and had just finished chasing Pancho Villa through northern Mexico. They were good soldiers, well trained, well disciplined, and in the last decades of the 19th century, the 24th had the lowest desertion rate in the entire army.

The War Department moved the 24th Infantry to Houston, where the U.S. Army was building a military base to be called Camp Logan, where Memorial Park is today. Their job was to guard the building site. However, members of the 24th Infantry were apprehensive about coming to Texas. There had been several incidents in previous years between black troops and white citizens.

The citizens of Houston were uneasy with the idea of a group of black infantry soldiers being stationed in their city. Houston was and had always been strictly segregated. Houston's population was approximately 138,000. Its black population was about 30,000 - the largest in Texas.

During this time, to make matters worse, The Houston Police Department was not at all stable. The department had 159 men, two were Black, and relations between the police and the Black Houstonians were bad. The well-liked Police Chief, Ben Davidson, was fired by the mayor and replaced with Clarence Brock, who had previously been head of the Parks Department. Many of the officers didn't like Brock and didn't regard him as their Chief. Shortly after the mayor made this change, he dropped dead and city hall was being temporarily run by Mayor Pro Tempore, Dan Moody.

On Saturday, July 28, 1917, the Third Battalion, including the 24th Infantry, arrived in Houston by train shortly before 6:00 a.m. There were 656 black enlisted men and eight white officers. The black soldiers were happy to get out of the desert and dust of New Mexico, but there was a feeling of concern as they disembarked from the train in Houston, Texas.

The black troops had been stationed out west and overseas for years, and the men were unaccustomed to the Jim Crow laws they faced every time they left their base. What seemed the most unreasonable was the segregated seating in the streetcars and the Houston Police. Racial contacts were kept to a minimum in the city, nevertheless a few black soldiers and one or two white officers received verbal abuse from white Houstonians.

One white Houstonian was quoted by the battalion's medical officer as having said, "That in Texas it cost 25 dollars to kill a buzzard and 5 dollars to kill a nigger." The black soldiers not only had to take abuse from the white Houstonians as they passed on the streets but also from the all-white Fifth Infantry of the Texas National Guard. They were temporarily stationed in several of the downtown buildings and whenever they met a black soldier in the city, an obscenity or derogatory remark was made.

Of all the prejudiced groups which the black soldiers encountered in Houston, the Houston Police seemed to be the worst, something the black citizens of Houston had experienced for years. Most of the problems which developed were brought about because there was never any true communication between the military and the city police.

The principal cause of racial bitterness between soldiers and police stemmed from a series of physical arrests of blacks by law officers. On August 18, two policemen arrested a black youth for throwing bricks at passers-by. Two soldiers passing by on a streetcar protested the treatment the youth was receiving from the officers. The patrolmen stopped the streetcar and attempted to apprehend the soldiers. When the soldiers ignored the patrolmen, the two city officers struck them with their pistols and took them to the police station.

Later the same day, two other soldiers complained to the desk sergeant that two policemen had severely beaten them for objecting to being called "niggers." The next day, a deputy sheriff of Harris County arrested another soldier for sitting in the "white only" section of the streetcar.

By late August, the list of grievances mounted and on Thursday, August 23, 1917 when the temperature soared to a record high of 102 degrees, a series of events occurred which sparked the group of black soldiers into armed revolt. During the morning, Rufus Daniels and Lee Sparks, two mounted Houston Police officers assaulted Private Alonzo Edwards, of Company L, for interfering in the arrest of a black female. That same afternoon Corporal Charles Baltimore, a black military police officer, approached Sparks and Daniels and began arguing about the arrest of Pvt. Edwards. Sparks, regarded as one of the more boisterous racists on the police force, was annoyed at the idea of an African American questioning him about one of his arrests. Sparks struck Baltimore with his pistol and fired at him three times, as Baltimore ran away. They finally found Baltimore hiding under a bed in a nearby house. He was hit again several times, arrested, and taken to jail.

Immediately, news of the beatings of Private Edwards and Corporal Baltimore reached the 24th Infantry's camp. Soon, the rumor was that Baltimore had been killed by the police. Infuriated by what the soldiers regarded as needless violence, the soldiers vowed to avenge Baltimore's death by getting the policeman who had killed him.

Cpl. Baltimore was brought into camp to show that he was alive, battered and beaten, but alive. The officers of the infantry felt that by showing Baltimore to the troops, the rumors would die down. Attempting to de-escalate the situation, the unit's commanding officer, Major Snow, ordered all his troops to stay at the camp that night. He increased the guard and sent military police into town to patrol the black neighborhood on that evening. Several black soldiers were still determined to get revenge on Sparks for his assaults on Baltimore and Edwards. A few of the more dissatisfied men threatened to "burn down the town", and one promised to "shoot every white face he saw."

On August 23, 1917, at approximately 9:00 p.m., the feelings of vengeance and hate toward the Houston Police and the white citizens of Houston had reached a boiling point among the angry soldiers of the 24th Infantry. Suddenly a cry from one of the soldiers sounded throughout the camp, "Get your guns, men! The white mob is coming!" Soldiers began to shoot wildly as they grabbed their guns. The soldiers never stopped to see whether a white mob was coming or not, some believe that this was a signal for the soldiers to come together for their flight into town. For about thirty minutes, the camp was a mass of confusion, until Sergeant Via Henry, considered one of the most loyal non-commissioned officers of the 24th, began organizing the soldiers for their march into town. The outfit of soldiers that left the camp was approximately one hundred (100) strong.

The mob of soldiers came down Center Street, marched down Roy Street and crossed Washington to Lillian, where the first two killings of the riot took place. The soldiers killed two citizens as they came out on their porch to find what all the noise was about.

When the soldiers reached Durham, they split into two groups. One group continued over to North Shepherd, here they spotted four Houston police officers and immediately started firing upon them. *ROSS PATTON*, the first officer to be shot in the riot, was hit in the hip and leg. He was expected to recover, but died from the wounds sixteen days later.

The two groups joined up once again and headed down Brunner Avenue, the soldiers were in a state of frenzy, destroying property and shooting people indiscriminately. In the meantime, local citizens had begun to organize themselves and started toward the rioters. The march of the soldiers headed down San Felipe toward town, here they encountered some mounted police. The mass blaze of firing erupted upon the

officers. Officer *RUFUS DANIELS* was shot down, his body was bayoneted, and his face was smashed. Officer *IRA D. RANEY* was shot, bayoneted and beaten in the head with soldier's rifle butts. Officer *HORACE MOODY*, also a mounted officer, had his left leg mangled by a bayonet during the fighting and had to have it amputated. He died during the operation.

After the killing of these three officers, the soldiers continued farther down San Felipe and stopped a car driven by a white teenage boy. The car contained two teenagers, a shooting gallery owner, and two Houston police officers. One officer was killed and the two teens were injured. A convoy of National Guard troops arrived to intervene. Officer *E. G. MEINECKE,* who was in the car with Captain Mattea of the Illinois National Guard, was shot in the head and killed.

The incandescent rage of the soldiers had mostly burned itself out. Some of the soldiers began to desert and others wanted to desperately. Sgt. Henry continued to plead with some of them to go on with him and attack the police jail. The men had finally tired of their fight and began to return to camp.

Sgt. Henry was found the next day with the back of head blown off, lying across the railroad tracks in the city's Fourth Ward. At the time, there was speculation on whether he was shot by someone else or had committed suicide. During the court martials, it was conclusively proven to be suicide.

The riot was the largest mutiny in the history of the US Army. The final total of dead was sixteen (16) whites, this including police officers, civilians and National Guardsmen from Texas and Illinois. Many others were wounded. No black civilians were killed, but four (4) troopers of the 24th Infantry died. Two (2) were accidently shot by other soldiers, a third soldier shot in the leg by a white citizen, later died in the hospital, and the last was the death of Sgt. Henry from suicide.

On August 25, the entire Third Battalion of the 24th Infantry was sent back to its home base of Columbus, New Mexico, under armed guard. The Army had a difficult task of determining the guilt due to the fact that most of the soldiers looked alike to the eyewitnesses of Houston and the soldiers were committed to each other and kept silent. However, after an intense investigation, the Army was ready for trial. The defense had begun to weaken as testimony about particular soldiers came to light. The rioters were brought to Fort Sam Houston in San Antonio and tried in the largest court-martial in U. S. history.

All total, one-hundred-eighteen (118) were tried on the major offenses of mutiny and murder. Seven (7) of these men were acquitted and one-hundred ten (110) were found guilty of at least one of the charges One was declared insane. Fifty-three (53) got life sentences, twenty-eight (28) others got from two to fifteen years. Twenty-nine (29) were sentenced to death and nineteen (19) were hanged.

Source: this account was compiled from Newspaper accounts of the time and from A Night of Violence, The Houston Riot of 1917 by Robert V. Hayes, Louisiana State University Press, Baton Rouge 1976.
ISBN 0-8071-0172 -9

# Detective Johnnie Davidson 1921

February 19, 1921
Gunfire–3405 Liberty



DOB—02/26/1886, Age 34
Badge–
Final Resting Place—South Park Cemetery
City— Houston, TX

Tony Margiotta, a city detective, cried as he made this statement to other city detectives in connection with the slaying of his partner earlier that night.

On February 19, 1921, around 10 p.m., Margiotta and his partner, Johnnie Davidson, had answered a prowler call at Liberty and Gregg Streets. As they approached the house, a male was walking down the steps. Margiotta called out for him to stop. The man hesitated, and the detectives met him on the front steps and began searching him. The search revealed a number of shells belonging to a .38 caliber weapon. Suddenly, the man became very violent, kicking and striking out at the detectives. As the detectives and the man struggled, Margiotta and the suspect fell to the ground. The man grabbed a gun, which he had evidently dropped when he first saw the detectives approaching, and began firing it at the detectives.

Margiotta grabbed him around the neck with an arm hold and called Davidson to hold the man. All at once, one of the man's arms was free and struck Margiotta in the face with the gun, gashing open a cut in his lower lip. He fired his gun, striking the back of his head, and burning off all the hair on one side of the detective's head. The man fired twice more. Margiotta heard a yell and turned around to see Davidson falling to the ground. "I'm shot! Kill that man! He got me!" The sixth shell snapped as the suspect jabbed the gun against Margiotta's mouth. Margiotta knew then that it was either the suspect or himself. Margiotta then pressed his gun against the suspect's head and pulled the trigger. The detective immediately ran over to where his partner was lying and tried to rouse him. Davidson said nothing as he took his last breath.

Margiotta's blood-smeared face and muddy clothes were evidence of the struggle and the effort made to arrest the suspect. Davidson had been a police officer in Houston since December 14, 1918. He was survived by his wife, mother and two brothers.

Source—Houston Police Department Museum Files

# Officer Jeter Young 1921

June 19, 1921
Auto Accident—Preston at Louisiana



DOB—03/14/1888, Age 33
Badge—
Final Resting Place—Hollywood Cemetery
City—Houston, TX

On Sunday afternoon, June 19, 1921, Officer Jeter Young and his partner, Officer W. E. Scearce, were sent out on a "short call" trip to Washington Avenue. As their car reached Preston and Louisiana, it collided with a Ford truck belonging to Magnolia Dairy Company and rolled over twice. Officer Young died three hours later of head injuries at St. Joseph Infirmary, where he was taken in a Westheimer ambulance, without ever regaining consciousness. Officer Scearce was badly bruised and had a number of broken bones. Mr. Nicholson, the truck driver, suffered a bruised elbow.

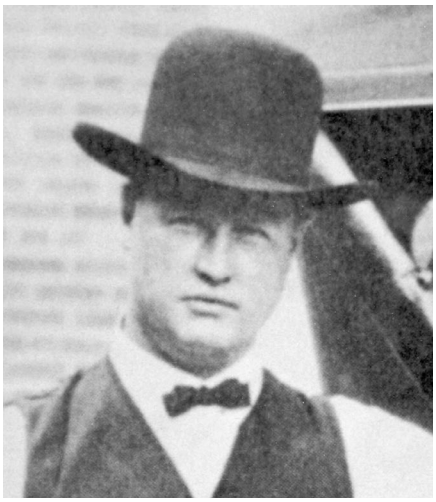
Mr. Nicholson made a statement to the officers in which he said he did not see the approaching police car until it was too late. "His car," (the officer's) he said, "turned over in the accident." A charge of Negligent Homicide was filed in Justice J. M. Rays Court against Nicholson.

Officer Young had returned to the Department after having taken a job with the Southern Pacific Railway. He was assigned to patrol duty, being stationed at Main and Capital Avenue as a traffic man on the 3 to 11 p. m. shift. The records at police headquarters show Young's exemplary behavior. He was known to the executive officers of the Department as an efficient, courteous, and zealous officer, and was well-liked by his fellow officers. He was survived by his wife and three children, his parents, Mr. Mrs. William Young; and five brothers.

Source—Houston Police Department Museum Files

# Officer David Duncan Murdock 1921

June 27, 1921
Gunfire–1508 George Street



DOB—08/31/1884, Age 36
Badge--
Final Resting Place–Oak Lawn
City-- Rockdale , TX

Officer Murdock and Officer McGraw answered a call to the 1500 block of George Street, where there had been a shooting and the suspect had barricaded himself in the house. When the officers arrived on the scene, it was said they were met with a fusillade of shots from the inside of the house. One of these shots struck Officer Murdock, and he fell. He had been shot through the jaw. Other officers were sent to the scene and upon entering the house, they found the body of a woman lying on the floor of the kitchen. The suspect surrendered upon seeing the officers.

The suspect, Will Alexander, was taken to the county jail by Sheriff Binford, Deputy Sheriff Rogers, and Investigator George Andrews of the district attorney's office. He was charged with murdering Edna Phelps and with assault to murder Officer Murdock.

Murdock was taken to St. Joseph Infirmary in a police car and was believed not to be seriously hurt; however, five days later, on Tuesday, June 27, 1921, he died. Officer Murdock had received a fractured jaw from the gunshot, which necessitated an operation to relieve the intense pain. According to the doctors, he died from dilation of the heart caused by the anesthetic. Officer Murdock had been with the Houston Police Department since October 1920. Before joining the police department, he was a state convict guard.

Source—Houston Police Department Museum Files

# Officer J. Clark Etheridge 1924

August 23, 1924
Motorcycle accident at Main/McGowen



DOB—07/12/1898, 26
Badge—
Final Resting Place—Forest Park-Lawndale
City—Houston, TX

J. C. Etheridge, Jr., a motorcycle officer, was fatally injured at 12:15 a.m. on Saturday morning, August 23, 1924, when his motorcycle and a Hupmobile, driven by E. K. High, collided at Main and McGowen. According to Officer W. E. Sammons, Etheridge's riding partner, the accident occurred when they were chasing a speeding car on Main Street. Officer Sammons said, "They had followed the car several blocks when Officer Etheridge sped up in an effort to catch the speeding driver." Officer Etheridge was traveling about 40 miles an hour and I was about a half a block behind him when I saw the Hupmobile, which was traveling west on McGowen Avenue, pull out in the middle of the street at a very slow rate of speed, about 10 or 15 miles an hour," Sammons said.

Evidently, Officer Etheridge saw the car about the same time that the driver of the Hupmobile saw the motorcycle. The driver stopped his car in an effort to let Etheridge pass in front of him. Etheridge whipped his machine to the left, and the motorcycle skidded and turned over. Both officer and motorcycle slid under the Hupmobile, coming out on the other side, Officer Sammons stated. He said it was an unavoidable accident.

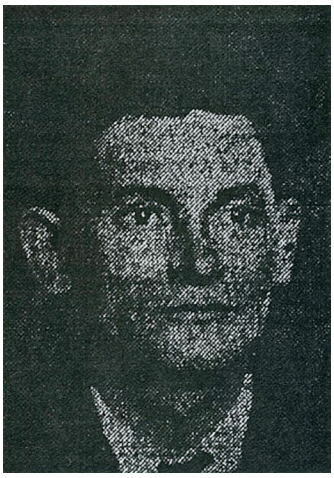
Etheridge was rushed to the St. Joseph's Infirmary in an ambulance, where he died. The driver, Mr. High, was taken into custody by Sammons and brought to police headquarters, where a charge of assault by auto was filed against him before Justice of the Peace Overstreet. He was later released on $300 bond.

Officer J. C. Etheridge had been with the police department since November 21, 1922, and was considered by his brother officers as conscientious and fearless. He was survived by his wife Ruth Landers, his parents, Mr. John Clark and Mrs. Elizabeth Etheridge, Sr.; and three sisters, Velma, Irma and Myrtle. He was married in 1923 in Waller County.

Source—Houston Police Department Museum Files

# Detective Pete Corrales 1925

January 21, 1925
Gunfire—2003 Congress



DOB—04/08/1876, Age 48
Badge #
Final Resting Place—Holy Cross Cemetery
City--Houston, TX

Houston Police Detective Pete Corrales was shot and killed in a combination barbershop and soda fountain stand at 2003 Congress on January 25, 1925. The murder occurred as Detective Corrales rushed to the scene of a shooting after hearing shots fired.

The following is an account from eyewitnesses, who were present during the confrontation. Max Martinez, the suspect, entered the soda drink stand and met his girlfriend, Juanita Guzman, who worked at the location. The soda drink stand was separated from the barbershop by a partition. Martinez called Guzman for a bottle of soda water. Guzman replied that she did not have any. An argument ensued, and after several minutes, the suspect, Martinez, drew a pistol and fired point blank into the face of Guzman.

Detective Corrales, who was in the barbershop adjacent to the soda stand, heard the shot and rushed to the scene. Corrales met the suspect, Martinez, face to face at the bar of the soda fountain, where a gunfight took place. Both guns blazed at the same time, and the suspect, Martinez, fell to the ground, shot in the mouth, chest, and arm. Detective Corrales, shot one time in the chest, staggered outside the establishment to a drugstore next door, where he waited for an ambulance. Detective Corrales died shortly after arriving at St. Joseph's Hospital.

Detective Pete Corrales had been a detective in the Houston Police Department for three years. He was praised as being one of the finest investigators to have worked for the department. He was survived by nine children.

Source—Houston Police Department Museum Files

# Detective Edward C. Chavez 1925

September 17, 1925
Gunfire—#13 Woods Alley



DOB—10/13/1885
Badge—
Final Resting Place—Washington Cementery
City—Houston, TX

Detective E. C. Chavez was killed in the line of duty on September 17, 1925, by Pablino Ramerez. Chavez was at the home of Ramerez when the shooting happened. According to Pablino's wife, Ysahel Ramerez, Detective Chavez was there to try to bid for her affections. Pablino returned home after being away at a fiesta. The two men had words, then Pablino left, but he came back armed. When Pablino saw that Chavez was still there, they fought through the house and out into Nitz Alley. Ramerez fired at Chavez and hit him in the stomach.

Ysahel ran for help, going to Jim Buenrosto's home, where she told him that Chavez had been shot. Buenrosto ran to the police station at Caroline and Preston and told the police what had happened. When the officers got to the scene, Ramerez had fled, and Chavez was on the ground. Chavez was taken to Jefferson Davis Hospital and died there at about 4 a.m.

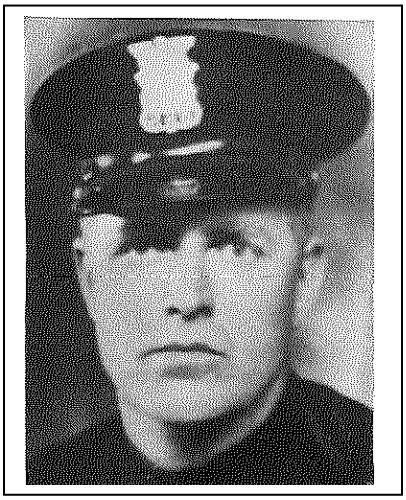
Chavez was survived by his wife, Clara Chavez; son John H., his sisters, Joslo Alvarado and Secundina Tena; and brothers, Steven and Gollian Chavez.

Detective Chavez had been a city detective since February 15, 1925.

Source—Houston Police Department Museum Files

# Officer Perry Page Jones 1927

January 30, 1927
Gunfire—400 Milam



DOB–07/03/1893, Age 33
Badge—
Final Resting Place—New Hope Methodist Church, Field Store
City--Waller, TX

On Monday morning, January 30, 1927, the headline of the Houston Post-Dispatch read, "Policeman Shot to Death by Negro Gunman." Officer P. P. Jones, a newly commissioned policeman since October 1926, was assigned the Milam Street beat from the City Auditorium to Commerce Street and was working the night shift from 11 p.m. to 7 a.m. At approximately 3 a.m., a single shot was heard by several people. Ed Perry, an employee of the City Street and Bridge Department, was the first witness to connect the accused suspect with the shooting. Perry was driving a street sweeper along the 400 block of Milam when he heard the shot. Perry stated: "I looked across the street and saw a man sinking to his knees. I didn't know he was an officer till later. He was in a doorway next to the cafe. About six feet away, another man was standing with a gun in his hand, watching the officer fall. When the officer lay quiet, the suspect snapped the gun at him twice more and the gun failed to shoot. Then he put his cap on, placed his gun in his pocket and walked into the cafe."

Perry ran over to the man in the doorway and discovered it to be Officer P. P. Jones. Perry then ran to Travis and Prairie and summoned Officer C. C. Coffey, who was on the next beat. Coffey telephoned the police station and every available officer on duty was sent to the scene of the shooting.

The stricken officer, who was still breathing, was placed in another witness' automobile and taken to St. Joseph's infirmary by Officer Coffey and a couple, who witnessed the shooting. Jones was dead when he was placed on the operating table at the hospital. The bullet entered his left temple and lodged in his brain. It was a small caliber bullet, probably a .32, officers declared.

Meanwhile, Motorcycle Officers Davis and Taylor were among the first officers to reach the scene of the shooting. They obtained a hurried description and got more details from Perry. Perry stated that after the suspect had shot the officer, he walked into the cafe and a few minutes later he came out, jumped from the sidewalk and ran down Prairie toward the bayou.

As soon as the killing was reported, night shift police officer R. J. Martin phoned the city farm and had bloodhounds sent to the scene of the shooting in an attempt to pick up the trail. The dogs, however, were unable to find the scent on the city payment. Identified by five persons as the slayer of Police Officer P. P. Jones, Peter Chester was arrested at his home the next day and bound over to the grand jury without bond following a preliminary hearing.

Nearly a score of Houston police officers accompanied the funeral cartage when the body of Patrolman P. P. Jones was taken overland to the Field Store community, nine miles east of Waller, to the burial grounds of the New Hope Methodist Church. It was never discovered why Officer Jones was attempting to arrest Chester in the first place. At Chester's hearing, he only stated that the officer was harassing him. Chester never admitted to the shooting and there were no eyewitnesses to the actual shooting, only seeing Chester with the gun in his hand.

Justice of the Peace Overstreet, after investigating the death, condemned the practice of allowing patrolmen to work singly at night. Officer Jones, like practically all officers killed during the last five years, was working alone when he met his death. Officer P. P. Jones is survived by his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Frank Jones; and four children, Venice, Severn, Lyle, and Talmadge.

Source—Houston Police Department Museum Files

# Officer Rodney Q. Wells 1927

July 30, 1927
Automobile Accident at Labranch and Elgin

DOB–10/29/1876, 50
Badge–
Final Resting Place - East Sandy Cemetery
City--New Waverly, TX




Short Call Officer R. Q. Wells was fatally injured on Saturday morning, July 30, 1927, when he and Officer M. A. Gresham were answering a call in the 2000 block of Arbor Street. A caller told the police desk sergeant briefly that there was "a shooting at 2008 Arbor" sent Officers Wells and Gresham on a dash to the scene.

At the blind corner of Elgin and LaBranch, an ice truck crossed in front of the police car. Gresham, who was driving, said he tried to swing in front of the truck, but seeing that would mean a crash, he swung again to the left. The front fender of the police car struck a rear wheel of the truck, and the police auto was snapped around. It rolled several times and pinned Wells beneath it. The truck also overturned, but R. W. Alexander, the driver, was uninjured.

Officer Gresham was shaken considerably but not injured sufficiently to go to the hospital. He called an ambulance for his injured colleague and taken to police headquarters. The driver of the ice truck was detained by police for questioning but was later released. Officer R. O. Wells died later of injuries received at the accident.

Officer Wells was well liked by his fellow officers and many felt a great loss at his death. Officer R. Q. Wells was survived by his wife; sons, Alvin and David; brother, John Wells; and sister, Mrs. Fannie Osburn.

Source—Houston Police Department Museum Files

# Detective Carl Greene 1928

March 14, 1928
Gunfire at E. Montgomery Road



DOB—05/27/1893, Age 33
Badge--
Final Resting Place—Forest Park Lawndale Cemetery
City—Houston, TX

Carl Greene, investigator for the district attorney, was shot and wounded in the early morning of March 14, 1928, and died late in the afternoon of the same day. Detective Greene was 33 years old.

The shooting took place during a raid on Sam Maglito's home, near the East Montgomery Road, about ten and a half miles from Houston. Carl Greene and his partner, Claude Beverly, were in search of liquor and a still believed to be located on Maglito's place. The detectives stopped in front of the home about 8 a.m. and Maglito came to the front gate. Detective Beverly read the search warrant. Maglito smiled but said nothing. Detective Beverly walked toward the barn, where he believed the still was located, while Detective Greene followed Maglito toward his house. As Detective Beverly was undoing the chain on a gate near the barn, he heard Greene cry out, "Don't do that! Drop it!" There were pistol shots heard. Beverly ran to the back of the house and saw Maglito in the kitchen, pointing the pistol at him. Beverly fired three times, and Maglito fell to the floor. Beverly found Greene in the next room with a bullet wound over his heart. Detective Beverly immediately sought help for his wounded partner. A neighbor called the sheriff and an ambulance. Beverly dragged Greene outside and flagged down the first car that came along. Greene was then taken to Baptist Hospital, where he died. The bullet entered just over Greene's heart, followed his ribs around his chest, and came out under the right arm. Hospital attendants found the .38 caliber bullet in the officer's trousers.

Detective Greene had joined the Houston police force about four years earlier as a patrolman. Greene first worked with Claude Beverly on the police force. The pair worked deep Congress, the worst watch on the worst beat in the city, according to police officers. The two officers made a reputation for the way they kept order on Congress. Greene and Beverly were credited with closing up scores of disorderly houses and bootlegging joints on their beat. They were responsible for more liquor convictions in the state courts of Harris County than were secured in any other county in the state of Texas.

Detective Greene, just a few months prior to the shooting, decided to join the district attorney's office as an investigator. Claude Beverly had gone to the district attorney's office earlier and when Greene came over, they once again became partners.

Beverly and Greene had been trying to catch Maglito for some time and had arrested his 18-year-old son earlier in the week for manufacturing and possessing intoxicating liquor. Maglito was shot five times. Neighbors reported to officers shortly after the shooting that they saw someone dragging a still about a quarter of a mile from the house and hiding it. Officers investigated and found a 20-gallon still. They also found some coils in a marsh near the house and 21 gallons of whiskey in the corner of a back room. Maglito's 15-year-old daughter made this statement to officers, "My father started making whiskey about a week ago. We were hungry. There are 12 in our family. My mother had been dead for nine years. We have a step-mother that father married about three years ago."

Detective Carl Greene's funeral services were held in the Fogle-West chapel, and he was buried in Forest Park Cemetery. Detective C. Greene was survived by his wife, Mrs. Pearl Walker Greene; mother, Mrs. R.G. Greene; brothers, Jules, Robert W., Richard G. Jr., and Ellis; and sisters, Miss Egenia and Effie Greene.

Source—Houston Police Department Museum Files

# Officer Paul W. Whitlock 1928

April 22, 1928
Gunfire (accidental) at 400 Caroline

DOB–1/27/1901, Age 27
Badge—
Final Resting Place—Forest Park- Lawndale
City—Houston, TX




A group of uniformed police officers were on the sixth floor of Police Headquarters at the target range. They were conducting target practice at 2:45 pm before their shift of 3 to 11 p.m. began.

Officer Whitlock was about 8 feet to the side of Officer H.N. Howard and slightly in front of him. Howard raised his arm to shoot his weapon, and the gun went off before he could level it on target. A .38 caliber bullet from Officer Howard struck Officer Whitlock in the right side of the abdomen.

The officers took Whitlock down six flights of stairs and loaded him into a police vehicle to take him to Baptist Hospital. He was in critical condition from his injuries but was reported to have a fighting chance; however, he expired the next morning at 1:16 am.

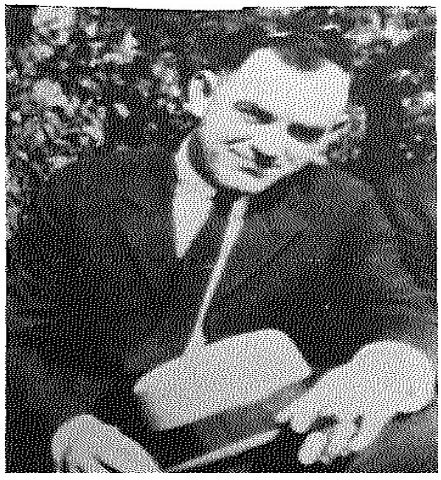
His death was added to our list of KILD in 2006 by Chief Harold Hurtt. Officer Whitlock had been with HPD since January 16, 1928, and worked as a traffic control officer assigned to the intersection of Maine and Prairie.

He was survived by his father, Arthur Whitlock, and his sister Mrs. E. P. Goudreau, of Jennings LA.

Source—Museum Files, and Fallen Heroes of the Bayou City

# Detective Albert Worth Davis 1928

June 17, 1928
Gunfire at Genessee at Andrews (4th Ward)



DOB—10/17/1897, Age 30
Badge –
Final Resting Place—Hollywood Cemetery
City--Houston, TX (unmarked grave)

City Detective A. W. Davis died in the line of duty on June 1 7, 1928, from a bullet wound inflicted by a suspect that he tried to arrest earlier that day. Davis and his partner, Detective Henry Bradshaw, were patrolling the Fourth Ward early in the morning when they saw a group of men at the corner of Andrew and Genesee Street. The officers told the men to disperse. One of the men ran and Davis followed him around a corner, out of Bradshaw's sight. Several shots were fired and Bradshaw found Davis lying on the sidewalk with bullet wounds in his head and shoulder.

Within thirty minutes after the wounding of Davis, all available officers were combing the Fourth Ward. A few hours later, police arrested Robert Powell at his home. He was found in bed, suffering from a pistol wound in his abdomen. He was removed to Jefferson Davis Hospital am placed under guard.

Statements taken from the other men led to the filing of a murder charge against Powell. Powell's condition at first led the physicians to say he would die. However, the next day, doctors announced Powell would recover.

He never recovered, because that night a gang of unmasked white men came into Jeff Davis Hospital and took Powell at gunpoint. All available police officers, sheriff deputies, and investigators for the district attorney's office were assigned to search for Powell. Detectives Ira Nix and John Gambill found his body hanging from a bridge over Big Bully on Post Oak Cutoff Road between Westheimer and Katy Road, eight miles from Houston.

Houstonians were appalled that something so cruel and cold-blooded could happen in their city. It was Harris County's first lynching in over 50 years. Within a few hours after the outrage was discovered, authorities took the following steps:

- Governor Moody offered a reward of $250 for the arrest and conviction of the men who participated in the lynching party.
- City Council passed an ordinance giving Mayor Holcombe authority to appoint a committee of citizens to conduct an investigation separate from that under way by regular agencies and appropriated $10,800 to pay the investigators.
- Mayor Holcombe placed all city police at the disposal of the district attorney.
- The grand jury was charged with dropping all other business and concentrate on the probe of the lynching.
- Governor Moody placed five Texas Rangers in Houston to work with the district attorney.

Every available enforcement officer in the county was assigned to the task of hunting the lynchers. Anonymous telephone calls by unknown parties told the sheriff's department and detective's office to watch a downtown garage and the men responsible for the lynching would be found. Within two days, arrests were made, and a signed confession by one of the men accused of the murder was taken by detectives.

The men in the lynching party were all friends of Davis, who wanted justice for what happened to their friend. That is when they decided to take matters into their own hands.

The men involved in the lynching were: F. T. "Clyde" Shuck, John "Slim" Kent, Charlie Oldham, A. B. Wheeler, Tack Reese, and Howard Minton.

The six men divided up into two cars. They drove to the hospital and three of them went inside. The conspirators stuck a gun in the back of the officer who was guarding the prisoner. He was told to face the wall and not to look at them. The men went into Powell's room, tied his hands and feet together, and dragged him out of the hospital and into their car.

The men first went to the Sabine Street bridge and were about to stop when they noticed two motorcycle officers behind them. The men then decided to go out to Westheimer Road, where there was another bridge. They got out and tied a handkerchief around Powell's mouth and told him to walk over the bridge. A rope was tied around one of the posts and a man shoved Powell over the side. Someone struck a match, and they look down to check their handiwork. One of them said Powell was not hanging, but just sitting on the bank, so they pulled him up, shortened the rope and dropped him again.

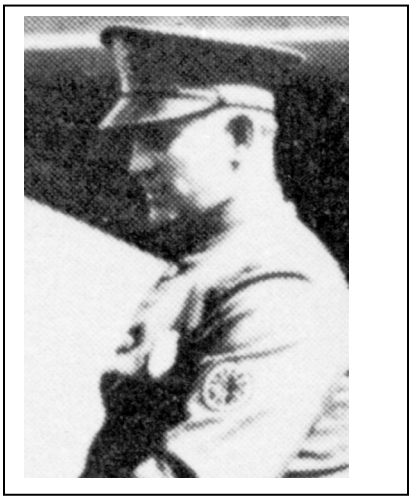
After the lynching, the men went back into town and went their separate ways, swearing each other to secrecy. The police never identified the informant, and no one came forward to claim the reward. Some people felt it was possibly A. B. Wheeler who tipped off HPD.

Detective Davis had been a member of the police department for six years. He served as a motorcycle officer for five and one-half years and then was promoted to detective. As a motorcycle officer, Davis had an enviable reputation for the number of burglars and thieves he caught. The deceased officer was survived by his wife and two sons, Jones and Felix.

Source—Houston Police Department Museum Files

# Detective Oscar Hope 1929

June 22, 1929
Gunfire at 408 Bayou Street



DOB—08/17/1897, Age 31
Badge—
Final Resting Place—Forest Park Lawndale
City—Houston, TX

Houston Police Detective Oscar Hope was shot and killed in the back room of a house at 408 Bayou on Saturday, June 22, 1929. The murder occurred as Detective Hope and his partner, Detective Ira Nix, were responding to a complaint lodged by Felix Andres. Andres had complained that the suspect, Henry Charles, was at the Bayou Street location causing trouble and had displayed a weapon stating, "I is one mean man and couldn't be took by any police." The following is an account from several eyewitnesses, who were present during the confrontation: Detectives Hope and Nix drove to the four-room shack at 408 Bayou and stopped in front. They were accompanied by Detective Hope's wife, and Edmund Nix, 22-year-old son of Detective Nix. The detectives were in the process of taking their family members home and answered the disturbance along the way. As they got out of their car, Henry Charles, who was sitting on the front porch, jumped up and ran inside the house. Hope then said, "You go to the rear, Ira, and I'll follow him into the house." Hope went into the house with his pistol drawn, and Nix went to the rear. As Nix reached the rear door, several shots rang out. Nix rushed into the house, stumbling over Hope's body, lying face down on the kitchen floor. The suspect, Charles, began shooting at Nix, who returned fire. Charles then bolted out the front door, with Nix behind him. As Charles ran from the house across a vacant lot, Nix jumped into the car and drove around the block in an attempt to cut off Charles. As Nix reached the 3100 block of Cline, two blocks from the house, he found Charles collapsed on the side of the road, bleeding. Charles died shortly after from gunshot wounds to the heart and back.

Detective Hope had died instantly, having been shot one time in the back of the head. Charles had been hiding behind the kitchen door as Hope entered the room, and he shot the detective when his back was turned. Hope was a seven-year veteran of the Houston Police Department. He was hired as a mounted ward officer, and soon became head of the Vice Division, where he stayed until becoming a detective. His wife was treated for shock following the incident.

Detective O. Hope was survived by his wife; his parents, Mr. and Mrs. R. W. Hope Sr.; brothers, R. W. Hope Jr. and Glenn Hope; and five sisters, Morma McFarland, Mrs. Gay Osborne, Annie Mae Peterson, Mrs. Robbie Gregg, and Ruth Hope.

Source—Houston Police Department Museum Files

# Detective Ed Jones 1929

September 13, 1929
Gunfire at 3527 McGregor Avenue

DOB—01/10/1880, Age 49
Badge—
Final Resting Place—Olivewood Cemetery
City-- Houston, TX




Detective Ed Jones was killed in the line of duty on September 13, 1929. He was shot in front of his own house, with his own gun, by his brother-in-law, Johnnie Wilson. Ed Jones was one of, if not the first, black detectives in the Houston Police Department.

According to witnesses, the shooting did not take place after a dispute of any kind. The motive for the incident was unclear, but appeared to be related to a case the detective was working. Jones was on a couch in his pajamas with his pistol on the floor beside him, when his wife, Sylvia Jones, returned from visiting her brother, Johnnie Wilson. Wilson had followed her to the residence.

Detective Jones had left the room and gone to the bathroom when Wilson picked up the pistol and then ran from the house. Jones, realizing the pistol was missing, followed Wilson outside. Wilson shot him as he approached. Two rounds from his .45 caliber pistol hit him: one in the chest and the other in the right leg.

Detective Jones died in his wife's arms outside of their home. A lengthy investigation ensued. involving two city detectives and an investigator from the District Attorney's office. Johnnie Wilson was charged with the murder of Detective Ed Jones.

Source—Houston Police Department Museum Files

# Detective C. F. (Osbourn) Thomas 1929

December 17, 1929
Motorcycle accident at Texas and Caroline




DOB—05/08/1906, Age 23
Badge—
Final Resting Place—Forest Park Lawndale
City—Houston, TX

C. F. Thomas, a 28-year-old motorcycle officer, was fatally injured as he tried to aid in clearing a path for fire engines rushing to a two-alarm blaze sweeping the two-story building at 1122 Capitol. The building was occupied by the Alexander Company, paint and wallpaper concern.

Motorcycle Officer Thomas was in the business district that Monday night when he heard the clanging of the fire engine rushing south on Caroline, toward the Capitol Avenue fire. With sirens screaming, he hurried east on Texas in an attempt to reach Caroline in advance of the fire crew and direct traffic for them.

As Thomas reached the intersection, two engines, a hose truck and the chief's, had already passed through. A pumper truck driven by A. Giese was just reaching the crossing. Thomas slammed on his brakes. According to witnesses, the motorcycle veered and struck the rear of the pumper, throwing Thomas under the wheels. He was taken in a Fogle-West ambulance to Baptist Hospital, where he died some ten hours later.

Officer Thomas had been in the motorcycle force for about a year. He became well known at the central fire station because of his willingness to help the firemen with traffic control.

Captain C. A. Williams, Officer Thomas' supervisor, applauded the officer's conduct and courageous attempt to do his duty at all risks.

Officer C. F. Thomas was survived by his wife, Eula Lee Thomas; his parents, Mr. and Mrs. James A. Thomas; three brothers, Leo Thomas, Lynn Thomas, and Fred Thomas; and one sister, Mary Edna Landrum.

Source—Houston Police Department Museum Files

# Officer Edward D. Fitzgerald 1930

September 20, 1930
Gunfire at Milam at Anita



DOB—02/01/1903 Age 27
Badge—
Final Resting Place—Barbers Hill Cemetery
City—Barbers Hill, TX

The Touchy Store robbery took place on Saturday, September 20, 1930, shortly before 9 p.m., when two well-dressed, unmasked white men held up the store. They stole $317 from the cash register and safe, and forced the manager, T. P. Clark, into a car before releasing him two blocks later. He rushed to a nearby garage and telephoned the police with a description of the bandits and their car.

Officer Fitzgerald and his partner, Officer William Phares, responded to the call, and both were shot when they tried to arrest the robbers approximately an hour later. Three bullets passed through Fitzgerald's left lung, killing him. Phares was critically wounded and died ten days later.

J. J. Maple, 35, was arrested Sunday by officers who intercepted his wife as she entered their apartment to get extra clothing for herself, her husband, and their daughter. The family had been hiding out in a church behind Evergreen Cemetery on the banks of Brays Bayou since the shooting. Mrs. Maple led the police officers to her husband, where he was apprehended.

E. F. Grimes, 34, was arrested later in the day after Mrs. Maple gave her statement identifying him as her husband's partner in other robbery cases. Both men confessed their part in the Saturday night holdup.

Services were held at Morse Funeral Chapel on Monday afternoon, September 22, 1930. Edward Davis Fitzgerald had been a police officer since February, 1927, and was considered to be one of the most efficient officers the police department had, taking pride in every part of his job.

Friday morning, November 28, 1930, J. J. Maple was electrocuted in Huntsville. He was pronounced dead in the electric chair at 12:13 a.m., eight minutes after the current started surging through his body.

"Nations pay tributes of respect to those who lay down their lives for their county in war. Far more should, we respect this man who laid down his life for us in time of peace."

Officer E. D. Fitzgerald was survived by his mother, Mrs. Louise E. Fitzgerald; two sisters, Mrs. Connie Eckman and Miss Virginia Fitzgerald; grandfather, F. M. Fitzgerald; and grandmother, Mrs. Edith A. Davis.

Source—Houston Police Department Museum Files

# Officer William Bonner Phares 1930

September 30, 1930
Gunfire at Milam at Anita




DOB—2/29/1904, Age 26
Badge—
Final Resting Place—Glendale, Lufkin, TX

The Touchy Store robbery took place on Saturday, September 20, 1930, shortly before 9 p.m., when two well-dressed unmasked white men held up the store, and stole $317 from the cash register and safe. They forced the manager, T. P. Clark, into a car and dropped him two blocks from the store. After the bandits released Clark, he rushed to a nearby garage and telephoned the police with a description of the bandits and their car.

Police Chief Percy Heard issued a general order with a description of the thieves and their vehicle, directing all members of the police department to be on the lookout for them. Officers Edward Fitzgerald and Phares were among the policemen patrolling the streets in search of the bandits. As they approached Milam and Anita, they spotted a car which bore the license numbers broadcasted over the air. Nearing the car, pistol shots rang out and Officer Phares fell to the pavement with a bullet wound to the abdomen. He drew his pistol and emptied the contents in the direction of the car.

"Get that man!" Officer Phares shouted. Officer Fitzgerald advanced toward the car. The criminals opened fire again. Officer Fitzgerald staggered back several feet and fell dead with three bullets in his left lung. The murderers jumped out of the car and ran west on the north side of Anita Avenue.

The shooting attracted a large crowd of more than 2,000 men and women standing in groups, watching police officers searching the neighborhood. The killers escaped despite the manhunt. As the night wore on, the search extended over the city, while deputy sheriffs and policemen guarded all roads leading out of town. Despite these efforts, the perpetrators remained at large.

Mr. J. J. Maple, 35, was arrested on Sunday by officers, who intercepted his wife as she entered their apartment to get extra clothing for herself, her husband and their daughter. The family had been hiding out in a church behind Evergreen Cemetery on the banks of Brays Bayou since the shooting. Mrs. Maple led the police officers to her husband, where he was apprehended by several officers.

E. F. Grimes, 34, was arrested later in the day after Mrs. Maple gave her statement identifying him as her husband's partner in other robbery cases. Both men confessed their part in the Saturday night holdup.

Officer W. B. Phares entered the police service on July 30, 1930. He passed away on September 30, 1930, after 10 days in the hospital. He was only an officer for 2 months.

Source—Houston Police Department Museum Files

# Officer J. D. Landry 1930

December 3, 1930
Motorcycle accident at Tuam at Genessee



DOB—11/23/1895, Age 35
Badge—
Final Resting Place—
City—New Iberia, LA

Motorcycle Officer J. D. Landry was fatally injured in an accident while chasing a speeding car on Tuesday, December 2, 1930. Motorcycle Officer A. O. Taylor was his partner at the time and reported the incident as follows: Officer Landry was chasing a speeder on Tuam Avenue. Fred Solano, the driver of the car involved, made the statement that he was driving west on Tuam and had turned into his place of business when the officer's motorcycle hit the rear of his car. Officer Landry was thrown to the ground, his motorcycle almost demolished. He was rushed to Methodist Hospital where he died from injuries received from the accident.

It was later found that the HPD Annual report for year 1930 lists his death on 12/10

Officer J.D. Landry was survived by his wife; his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Adolphe Landry; brothers, Walter, Otis, and Sidney; and sister, Edna Landry.

Source—Houston Police Department Museum Files; HPD 1930 Annual Report

# Officer Harry T. Mereness 1933

October 18, 1933
Motorcycle accident at Old Galveston Road and Broadway



DOB—09/15/1894, Age 39
Badge–
Final Resting Place—
City—Ypsilanti, Michigan

Motorcycle Officer H. T. Mereness died in Jefferson Davis Hospital at 12:15 p.m. on October 18, 1933, from injuries he received in a collision with an automobile driven by Owen Barry. The crash occurred when Officer Mereness, headed toward town, made a left turn to go to Park Place and Owen Barry, 16, driver of the car, made a left turn to go to a root beer stand. The motorcycle struck the side of Mr. Barry's car and Mereness was thrown onto the pavement.

Shortly after the accident, Mr. Barry was charged with assault before Justice G.L. Ricker at Harrisburg. After Officer Mereness died, the charge was changed to negligent homicide. The case was transferred to juvenile court.

Officer H. Mereness was survived by his wife, Gertrude Mereness; sons, Lyman I. and Bert C; his mother, Julia A. Mereness; and sister, Eugenie Mereness.

Source—Houston Police Department Museum Files

# Detective Rempsey Hayes “Rimps” Sullivan 1935

March 9, 1935
Gunfire at 1917 Dowling



DOB–07/08/1900, Age 35
Badge—
Final Resting Place—Forest Park Lawndale
City—Houston, TX

Houston Police Officer R. H. Sullivan was shot and killed at Jones Shoe Repair Shop located at 1917 Dowling on Saturday, March 9, 1935. The murder occurred as he attempted to quell a disturbance. The following is an account from several eyewitnesses:

Officer Sullivan, who was off duty, was returning home from Mayor Holcombe’s house with his friends, D. H. Mulligan, a cab driver, and S. Conroy, an ambulance driver. As the men traveled past the shoe repair shop on Dowling, Conroy asked Mulligan to stop for a minute. Conroy went inside and approached the suspect, Isaac Jones. Conroy asked if he could see a man named Tony. Jones replied, “There’s nobody here named Tony, so get out ‘cause I don’t want no white people in here.” As Conroy stood there, Jones ran up and shoved him out the door into the street. Conroy got up off the sidewalk and returned to the store.

Officer Sullivan saw the disturbance going on and went inside the location. Sullivan saw Jones, holding Conroy’s hands above him in the air. Sullivan then pulled out his badge, showing it to Jones as he explained that he was a police officer. Jones then released Conroy and ran behind a counter, where he pulled out a pistol. Jones then shot once at Sullivan, missing him, then fired again, striking Sullivan one time in the head. Conroy ran outside and called for an ambulance. Jones kept officers and ambulance drivers at bay for some time before finally surrendering.

Officer R. H. Sullivan, 34, had been a member of the Houston Police Department for several years. He had been a motorcycle officer before being assigned as Mayor Oscar Holcombe’s driver.

Officer Sullivan was survived by his wife, Myrtle Sullivan; son, Robert Harold; sister, Hazel Benjamin; brothers, Walter and J. E. Sullivan; and grandmother, Mrs. George Sullivan.

Source—Houston Police Department Museum Files

# Officer James Thomas “Jim” Gambill 1936

December 1, 1936
Heart attack at 2700 Calhoun



DOB—08/27/1887, Age 49
Badge—
Final Resting Place—Earthman Resthaven Cemetery
City—Houston, TX

Houston Police Officer Jim T. Gambill died of a heart attack following a struggle with an arrested suspect on Tuesday, December 1, 1936. The deadly struggle occurred in the 2700 block of Calhoun while Gambill and his partner, Officer George S. Seber, were transporting the suspect to jail. Officers Gambill and Seber responded to a call at 2001 St. Charles Street regarding a murder threat. Upon arrival, the officers learned that the complainant’s ex-husband, Martin Holmes, had come by and threatened to kill her but left when she called the police. Gambill and Seber took the complainant with them and drove to 2902 Tierwester Street, the residence of Holmes. They arrived and found Holmes outside the house, standing next to his truck. As Gambill and Seber got out of their patrol car, Holmes reached inside of his truck and pulled out a pistol. Gambill and Seber pulled their weapons and approached Holmes, disarming him. After placing Holmes in the patrol car, they left en route to the jail.

In the 2700 block of Calhoun, Holmes became unruly and attempted to get out of the car. Seber stopped and got out to handcuff Holmes. A struggle ensued and Holmes grabbed for Gambill’s pistol. Due to Holmes’ large size, Gambill and Seber could not control him. Holmes continued to beat Gambill while trying to get his gun. Seber then pulled his pistol and shot Holmes, firing five times before he released Gambill and fell. Gambill then got up, walked about two steps, and collapsed on the street. Gambill was taken to St. Joseph’s Infirmary, where he was pronounced dead on arrival due to a heart attack.

Officer Jim. T. Gambill, 48, joined the department on November 30, 1922.

Officer J. T. Gambill was survived by his wife, Pattie Annie Gambill; daughter, Glenna Mae Gambill; sister, Annie Kyle; brothers Young and John Gambill; aunts, Mary Gambill and Mrs. John Gambill.

Source—Houston Police Department Museum Files

# Officer Adolph P. Martial 1937

November 8, 1937
Automobile Accident at Woodland Heights



DOB—01/24/1883, Age 54
Badge—
Final Resting Place—Hollywood Cemetery
City—Houston, TX

Officer A. P. Martial, a former captain of detectives of Houston Police Department in the Holcombe Administration, died from what he thought was a minor bump on the head in an auto mishap.

About midnight, Saturday, November 6, Officer Martial and his partner, M. R. George were riding near Travis School in Woodland Heights when George, who was driving, swerved to avoid a collision with another vehicle. The police car hit the curb and Martial was thrown forward, his head striking a gun rack over the windshield. Soon after that, Martial complained of a headache. He took some aspirin tablets, and a short time later asked to be taken home. He immediately requested an ice pack and by the time Mrs. Martial prepared it, he had lapsed into a coma.

Officer Martial was taken to the hospital, where doctors said it appeared he was suffering from a clot in the brain caused by a concussion. He died at 8:20 a.m., Monday, in St. Joseph's Infirmary.

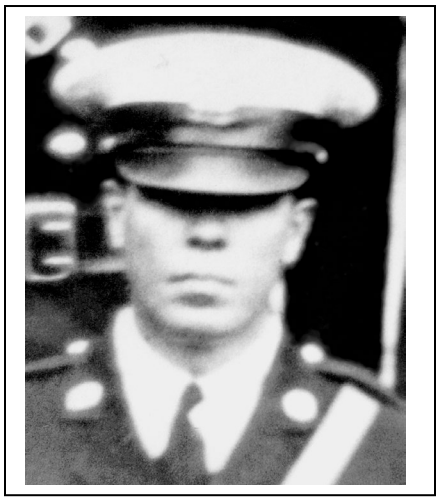
Officer Martial, a native of Houston, moved to the Police Department after working on a special assignment. In 1923, he was employed by Mayor Holcombe as one of two detectives investigating bootlegging operations. He remained on the force after the special assignment ended. In 1933, he was elevated to the rank of Lieutenant of Detectives in charge of the Burglary and Theft Division. On January 2, 1936, he was promoted again to the rank of Detective Captain. Officer Martial held the position for a year until the Fonville administration took charge of city affairs in January 1937. The captains, along with other ranking officers, were demoted to the position of cruising patrolmen.

Officer A. P. Martial was survived by his wife, Alfreda Martial; daughter, Dorothy Marie Martial; mother, Christine Martial; and brother, W.O. Martial.

Source—Houston Police Department Museum Files

# Officer Marion E. Palmer 1938

March 24, 1938
Gunfire at 1512 Heights Blvd.



DOB—March 20, 1895, 47
Badge—
Final Resting Place—Forest Park Lawndale
City—Houston, TX

Cruising Patrolman M. E. Palmer was shot to death shortly before noon on Thursday by a man named Light Zink, who then committed suicide by turning a double-barreled shotgun on himself.

Cruising Officer Roberts (Palmer's partner) described the shooting and events leading up to it. "Palmer and I went to the garage apartment in response to a complaint from Zink's wife. She had told the people who live at 1510 Heights Boulevard that her husband had locked her out and for them to call the police. We knocked on the door of the apartment, but Zink refused to let us in. We stood there for a while, knocking. I smelled gas escaping. 'He's turned on the gas,' I said to my partner. 'You watch the back and I'll go turn the gas off.' As I went to the gas meter beside the house in front of the apartments, my partner walked around to the back of the apartment. A few moments later, I heard a shot. I ran to the rear of the house and found my partner lying at the foot of a ladder. As I was running back, I then heard a second shot. I ran up the stairs to the apartment and burst the door in. I found Zink lying dead."

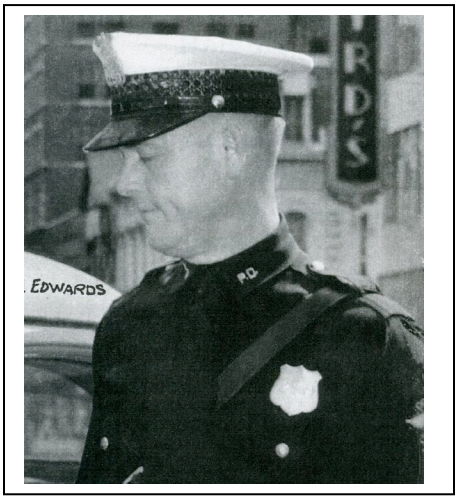
Officer Palmer was born on March 20, 1895, in Springfield, Ohio. Palmer joined the police force on June 16, 1930, as a patrolman. He worked out of West End Substation.

Officer M. E. Palmer was survived by his wife; sons, Harold and Marion E. Jr.; mother, W. D. Naus; sisters, R. A. Weller and Bernice Jones; and half-brother, R. C. Howard.

Source—Houston Police Department Museum Files

# Officer George Dewey Edwards 1939

June 30, 1939
Gunfire at 1200 Franklin




DOB—04/25/1899, Age 40
Badge—259
Final Resting Place—Rocksprings Cemetery
City— Dialville, TX

Houston Police Officer George D. Edwards was shot and killed during a struggle with an auto theft suspect at the corner of Fannin and Congress on Friday, June 30, 1939. Houston Police Detective S. T. Roe was also wounded during the shootout. The following is an account from several eyewitnesses:

W. H. Everett, of 1712 Elysian, had parked his car in the 300 block of Fannin, and upon returning to it at approximately 9 p.m., found a man dressed in cowboy boots, red and blue striped shirt, and green pants, inside his car attempting to start the engine. As Everett approached, the suspect got out of the car and began walking toward Congress. Everett followed him.

At Preston and Fannin, the suspect met another man, dressed in white, and this man asked the suspect, "What's the matter, can't you get it started?"

The two males then split up, and Everett continued to follow the suspect. Everett caught sight of two police officers (Edwards and G. H. Harrell) who were walking on Fannin toward Congress. Everett approached the officers and explained what had happened. Edwards and Harrell then ran after the suspect, catching up to him at Fannin and Congress. Two detectives, S. T. Roe and R. Seay, were driving by this location and stopped to aid the officers.

As the officers questioned the suspect, Carl Adams, about the attempted auto theft, Rice patted Adams down and felt a pistol in his right front pocket. At the time, Adams had his hand inside of his pocket. Roe then told Adams to show his hand.

Adams refused, stating, "Let me go and I'll give you the gun." The officers grabbed Adams in an attempt to confiscate the gun, and an intense struggle ensued. Adams broke free from the officers, spun around, and opened fire on them, striking Edwards one time in the head and Roe in the arm. Roe pulled his pistol and returned fire, hitting Adams three times, and dropping him to the pavement. Adams died at the scene.

Edwards was pronounced dead on arrival at St. Joseph's Infirmary. He had been a member of the Houston Police Department for a period of 12 years.

Officer G.D. Edwards was survived by his wife; daughter Kathryn Farmer; son, Kenneth Edwards; grandson, Thomas Farmer; parents, Mr. and Mrs. C.F. Edwards; brothers J.B., France, Bill and Charlie; and sisters, Dora Berry and Mrs. Dear.

Source—Houston Police Department Museum Files

# Officer Howard B. Hammond 1946

August 18, 1946
Gunfire at 3700 Dowling



DOB—06/12/1913, Age 33
Badge—824
Final Resting Place—New Providence Cemetery
City—Longview, TX

Patrolman Howard B. Hammond, after many months in the Navy, came home unharmed from the most destructive of all wars, only to meet a violent death while on duty on August 18, 1946.

While on patrol duty in the Dowling Street District, Hammond and his partner stopped to investigate couples dancing and drinking in a tailor shop. In the fight that ensued, his partner, T. F. Hambley, was badly beaten. Officer Hammond was beaten and shot through the forehead and neck. He was found near the entrance of the shop with a Black male, who was also killed in the brawl, atop him. The policeman's pistol and night club were in the Black man's hand. There were two empty shells in the gun.

His fellow officers on the 12 to 8 shift held memorial services in the assembly room, where his colleagues were both impressed and touched by Hammond's chair, which had been draped in black. Practically the entire personnel of the uniformed division and many of the other department members attended the funeral of a comrade, who, in the performance of his duty, gave his all.

Patrolman H. B. Hammond was survived by his wife, Kathleen Hammond; daughters, Sara Delano and Yvonne Hammond; his mother, Alberta Hammond; brother, Wilmer Joe Hammond; and sisters, l. C. Lewis, L.P. Myers, and Mary Neil Hammond.

Source—Houston Police Department Museum Files

# Officer Smith Anderson “Buster" Kent 1954

January 12, 1954
Motorcycle accident at 6300 Navigation



DOB—3/29/1906, 47
Badge—135
Final Resting Place—Forest Park Lawndale
City—Houston, TX

Motorcycle Officer S. A. “Buster” Kent died of injuries sustained in a traffic accident while on duty January 12, 1954. He had been a motorcycle officer since April 1, 1936.

On Wednesday, January 6, 1954, at approximately 9:30 am, Officer Kent and Officer Betz observed a speeder. Kent was “next up,” so he gave chase. A truck driven by Alfred Boulding pulled out of a private driveway in front of the motorcycle. ”Boulding later claimed he did not see the officer.

The motorcycle skidded in a straight line, and Kent laid it down. It is believed that the motorcycle did not strike the truck, but that the officer hit his head on the pavement as he fell.

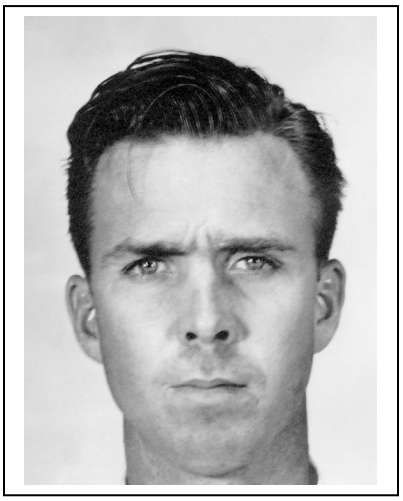
Officer Kent was taken to St. Joseph’s hospital in serious condition where he succumbed to his injuries on January 12, 1954, at 6:35 pm.

He was survived by his wife, Nell Margaret Kent; four-year-old son Smith Anderson “Butch” Kent III; his stepson, Bobby Ray Sublett, 15 years old. His fellow officer and dear brother Sergeant J. E. Kent; and three sisters, Mrs. Frank Miller, Mrs. E. D. McMahon of Houston, Mrs. Palmer Hotchkins of Pittsburg. His brother H. B. Kent of Pittsburg also survived him.

Source—Fallen Heroes of the Bayou City

# Officer Fred Maddox, Jr. 1954

February 24, 1954
Gunfire 5318 Laura Koppe



DOB–3/10/1924, Age 29
Badge–1012
Class—#6
Final Resting Place—Brookside Cemetery
City—Houston, TX

According to his signed confession, Carrol D. Farrar walked into the Gardner Liquor Store at 4819 Laura Koppe and robbed the owner of $89.90 on the night of Wednesday, February 24, 1954, at 7:20 p.m.

The owner of the liquor store called the police. Patrolman J. E. Tucker answered the call and was at the liquor store talking to the owner when he was telephoned by the police dispatcher. The dispatcher reported a message from a cab company that a suspicious man fitting the suspect's description had called for a cab from George's Food Market at the 5300 block of Laura Koppe Road.

Officer Tucker raced to the scene where he exchanged gunfire with the suspect. As this exchange took place, Patrolmen Maddox and Moon drove up in a patrol wagon. They heard the shooting and pulled into a driveway at the side of the store opposite from Tucker and leaped out.

Neither man knew he was in full view of the gunman behind a parked car less than 30 feet away.
Patrolman Moon ran toward the parked car, where the suspect leaped up in front of him, gun in hand. Moon thrust his hand up and got the shot in the forearm. He made his way to cover when suppressing gunfire from Tucker distracted the shooter. The gunman wheeled back, looking for Moon, but saw Maddox crouching to take aim near the rear of the parked car. The bandit fired once again, and Officer Maddox fell.

Officer Maddox was taken to Hermann Hospital, where he later died of a gunshot wound to the head.

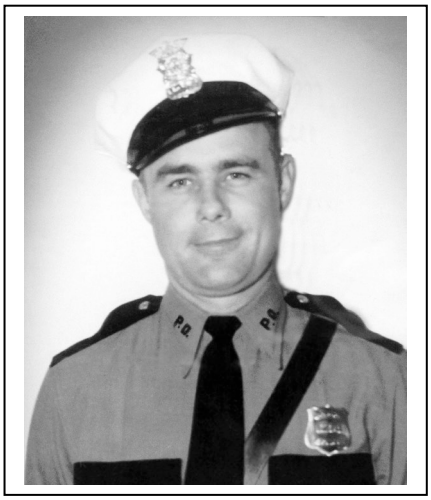
A murder complaint against Farrar was filed with Justice W.C. Regan. He was also charged with assault with intent to murder and with burglary, robbery by firearms, and felony theft.

Patrolman Fred Maddox, Jr. had been a member of the police force since November 1950. He was survived by his wife, Louise; daughter, Brenda; three sisters; one brother; and his parents.

Source—Houston Police Department Museum Files

# Officer Jack Bill Beets 1955

April 30, 1955
Gunfire at 3003 ½ Nance



DOB—2/14/1925, Age 30
Badge—1214
Class #8
Final Resting Place—
City—Kaufman, TX

"It is ridiculous that a city the size of Houston is manned by such few officers."

"These killings of our officers are an example of the savings which Houston is experiencing by operating with one half of a police force. I say one half because we have about one half the number of policemen per 100 population that other cities of comparable size have."

"It is certainly a phony concept of government to contend that Houston is saving money by shortchanging every public service."

"The public is paying the police."

"I hope this makes members of the City Council approach realistically Houston's need for a budget that will provide, among other things, adequate money for adequate police protection."

These comments were made on May 1, 1955, by Chief of Police Jack Heard and Mayor Roy Hofheinz, after the killing of Officers Jack Beets and Auxiliary Captain Charles Gougenheim. Officer Beets was killed in Jack's Place, 3003 1/2 Nance, while checking the tavern's license. He was leaning behind the bar to read a beer license when Manual Ben Smith, a Black man, age 50, entered with a pistol in his hand. Beets did not see his assailant. The officer turned around and was shot between the eyes and in the heart. He died an hour later in Jeff Davis Hospital.

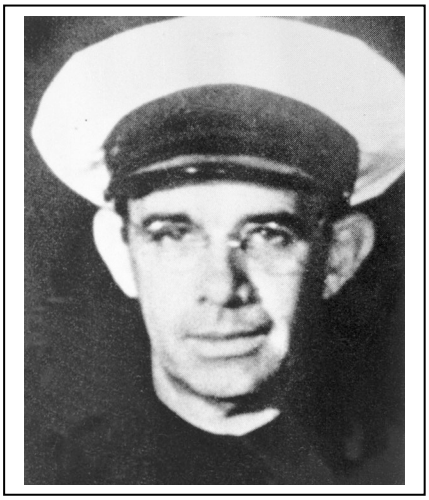
Smith ran from the tavern and fired at Gougenheim, who was sitting in a parked patrol car. Gougenheim jumped from the vehicle and returned fire. Smith was hit twice, fell to the sidewalk, and died instantly. Gougenheim was hit three times and died face down in the street. No one knew why Smith had gone on this rampage. Smith's wife told police that he'd always had a bad temper. Smith's sister, the bar owner, told police that she felt that her brother probably thought that the officer was going to arrest her.

Officer J. B. Beets was survived by his wife, Helen Beets; son, Billy Jack Beets; parents, Mr. and Mrs. Alvie Lee Beets; grandparents, John Beets and Mr. and Mrs. G.P. Reid; sisters, Dorothy Garrett, Mrs. Burt Robinson, Glenda Beets, Linda Carol Beets, and Mrs. Edgar F. Ward; brothers, John D. Beets, Kenneth Beets, and Jerry Beets; half-brother, Alvie Lee Beets.

Source—Houston Police Department Museum Files

# Auxiliary Captain Charles R. Gougenheim 1955

April 30, 1955
Gunfire at 3003 ½ Nance



DOB—6/23/1901, Age 54
Badge—Aux Capt.
Final Resting Place—South Park Cemetery
City—Pearland, TX

"It is ridiculous that a city the size of Houston is manned by such few officers."

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"It is certainly a phony concept of government to contend that Houston is saving money by shortchanging every public service."

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Auxiliary Captain Gougenheim had been with the auxiliary force since it was organized in 1940 and had just been promoted to Captain six months earlier. He was survived by his wife, Evelyn Gougenheim; daughter, Norma Adele Haigh; sisters, Sarah Tompson and Florence Elizabeth Rankin; brother Louis F. Gougenheim; and grandchildren, Donna, Clifford, Earl and Haigh.

Source—Houston Police Department Museum Files

# Auxiliary Officer Frank L. Kellogg 1955

November 30, 1955
Gunfire at 119 N. Bryan



DOB—1/1/1919, Age 36
Badge–Aux Officer
Final Resting Place—Forest Pak Lawndale
City-- Houston, TX

On October 15, 1955, Houston Police Officer J. W. Vogler was riding with Auxiliary Officer Frank L. Kellogg. In 1941, the Auxiliary Police were established in Houston to help reduce the crime rate and assist the city's emergency response during World War II. The Auxiliary Police consisted of seven citizens who had received police training. They would give up a few nights a week to help supplement the police force. The practice of using auxiliary officers continued well after the war and was still in practice on October 15, 1955, when Auxiliary Officer Kellogg was assigned to ride with HPD Officer Vogler.

Officers Vogler and Kellogg responded to a family disturbance at 119 North Bryan Street. They were told by the complainant, Mrs. Taylor, that her ex-husband had come to the apartment and beaten her, then fled. The officers searched for the suspect, Reuben C. Taylor, and located him at the intersection of Bryan and Canal Street, hiding in some underbrush. They returned the suspect to be identified by the complainant and then placed him under arrest. While the officers were taking Taylor back to the car, he grabbed Officer Kellogg's gun and shot him. Officer J. W. Vogler returned fire, striking the suspect four times in the chest and the abdomen and once in the head, killing him.

Officer Kellogg had been struck once by Taylor's bullet, which hit him in the chest and traveled to his right arm. Kellogg was rushed to St. Joseph's Hospital and was at first listed in fair condition.

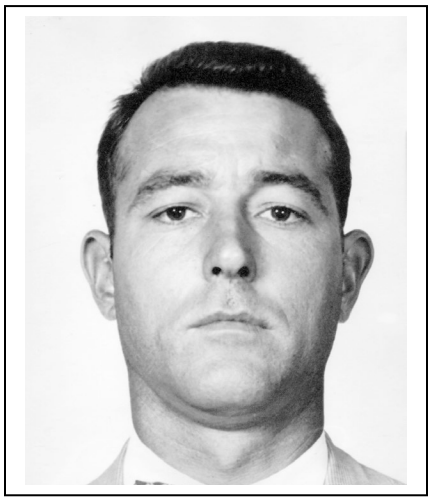
Kellogg was still in the hospital on Tuesday night, November 29, 1955, when his condition worsened. At 8:45 a.m. on Wednesday morning, November 30, 1955, Officer Kellogg passed away. He was laid to rest on Friday, December 2, 1955.

Officer F. L. Kellogg was survived by his wife, Mildred Kellogg, and two small children, Ginger Sue, and Robert.

Source—Houston Police Department Museum Files

# Officer Robert Joseph Schultea 1956

August 25, 1956
Gunfire at 4315 Navigation



DOB–12/03/1927, Age 29
Badge–1341
Class #11
Final Resting Place—Earthman Resthaven
City--Houston, TX

Vice Squad Officer Robert Schultea died early on Saturday, August 25, 1956, after he was shot by the wife of a man he was trying to arrest in a Navigation Boulevard tavern. The incident started out as a routine call. Officers Schultea and W. L. Kimble, his partner, went to the bar after a man complained to police that he lost money there gambling on shuffleboard.

They entered the bar at 11:20 p.m. on Friday and identified themselves as police officers. They told the owners they would have to close for the night. Marvin Eggleston, the owner, who had been drinking heavily, refused and grabbed Officer Schultea's arm, pushing him toward the door. Schultea and Kimble tried to subdue him. Gunfire erupted from the direction of the bar. Schultea yelled that he had been shot. Marvin's wife, Lillian, had fired two rounds at the officer before her husband surrendered.

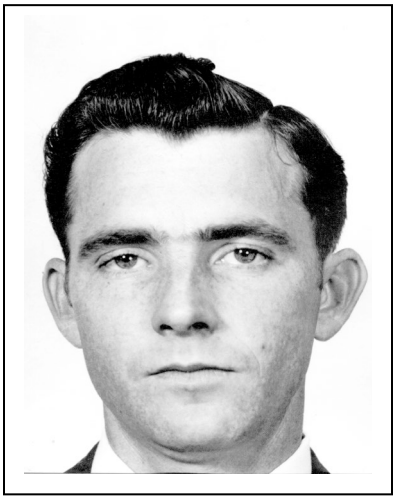
Officer Schultea died in Jefferson Davis Hospital about two hours after he was shot. He had been with the force for two and a half years.

Officer R. Schultea was survived by his wife, Mrs. Jimmie Florence Schultea; son, Patrick David Schultea; parents, Mr. and Mrs. D. D. Schultea; brothers, Weldon James, Carl DeRoy, Michael, and Bily; and sister, Ruth Schultea.

Source—Houston Police Department Museum Files

# Officer Noel Ray Miller 1958

June 6, 1958
Gunfire - 2813 Canfield



DOB—03/30/1930, Age 28
Badge—1336
Class #11
Final Resting Place—Forest Park Lawndale
City—Houston, TX

Officers Miller and E. J. Burke, his partner, had gone to George Moses' home on the north side with a search warrant. Also in the raiding party were E. J. Stutts, a state narcotics investigator, and two Harris County Deputy Sheriffs, J. T. Stephenson and L. E. Shiplely. They had a warrant to search Moses' home for marijuana. Burke said as they approached the house, they saw the suspect dash inside. Miller broke into the building, trailed by Stutts and Shipley. Burke and Stephenson went to cover the back door as Miller dashed into the front room. A shot roared out and Miller fell. Although wounded, he returned fire. His shot went wild.

Moses was later subdued and captured at his home before being charged with murder.

Several hundred people appeared at the city-county hospital after an appeal for blood donors was made on television and radio. Among volunteers were Police Chief Carl Shuptrine and Mayor Lewis Cutrer.

"The public's response to Officer Miller's plight has touched me deeply," said the chief. "Sometimes policemen feel we're standing alone . . . until something like this happens." A team of 12 surgeons had labored six and a half hours to keep Miller alive. They pumped 35 pints of blood into his body, but it was not enough.

Police Officer Noel Ray Miller, 28, died Friday, June 6, 1958 at 9 a.m. He was survived by his wife, Caroline Miller; children, Jan and Mike.

Source—Houston Police Department Museum Files

# Officer Claude Emmett Branon 1959

March 20, 1959
Motorcycle accident at 8700 Gulf Fwy



DOB—11/18/1926, Age 32
Badge–1168
Class #
Final Resting Place—Forest Park Lawndale
City—Houston, TX

Motorcycle Officer Claude E. Branon, who had been paralyzed since January 13, 1959, after a duty mishap, died in St. Joseph's Hospital. Officer Branon was sideswiped by the speeder he was chasing in the 8800 block of Gulf Freeway. The unknown motorist was sought by police. Several suspects were arrested but cleared after questioning.

A fund drive to benefit the then-paralyzed Branon raised $6,000.00 The money was turned over to Mrs. Branon his and two children, according to Wally Gee, police cafeteria operator. He and Bill Heit, district manager for Foremost Dairy, spearheaded the Branon Fund drive.

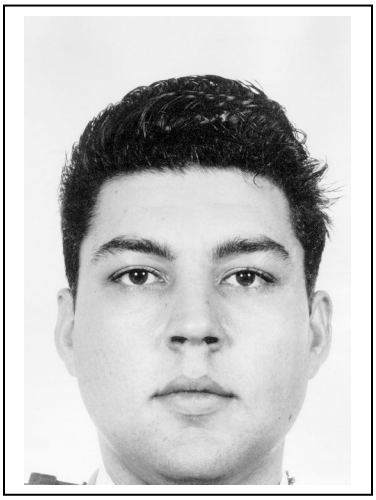
Officer Branon was 32 years of age and was born in Fort Worth. He joined the Houston Police Department in January 1952. Branon had spent nearly four years previously in the US Marine Corps and was discharged as a sergeant.

He was survived by his wife, Betty Lea; and two children, Emmett, Jr. and Linda Dale.

Source—Houston Police Department Museum Files

# Officer John “Jack” W. Suttle 1959

August 23, 1959
Vehicular assault at 4800 Gulf Fwy



DOB—6/6/1935, Age 24
Badge—1494
Class 18
Final Resting Place—Brookside Memorial
City--Houston, TX

Officer John W. Suttle was killed in the line of duty on August 23, 1959, in an auto pedestrian accident. He joined the department on April 28, 1958, after serving the United States Navy for four years. His first assignment was night shift in the Radio Patrol Bureau.

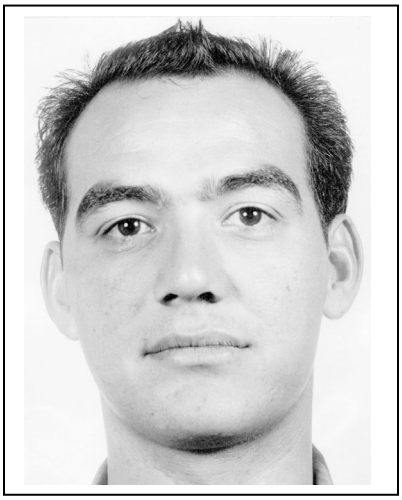
He was riding partners with Kenneth G. Smelley on the 10 pm to 6 am shift. About 1:40 on the morning of August 23rd, they were cruising inbound in the 4800 block of the Gulf Freeway. They came upon a one-vehicle accident that was blocking several lanes of traffic. Officer Suttle was directing traffic at the Lombardy overpass, waiting for HFD to arrive when another vehicle came at him at a high rate of speed, disregarding the officers’ directions and the warning lights. This vehicle struck Officer Suttle, throwing him into the previously wrecked vehicle and onto the concrete. It is thought that Suttle was dragged about 50 feet before making contact with the wrecked car, as he sustained massive injuries and the loss of his legs. The lifesaving efforts at St. Joseph hospital were in vain and he succumbed to his massive injuries.

Officer John W. Suttle was survived by his wife, Mrs. Loy Neil Suttle; son John W. Suttle, Jr.; parents Mr. and Mrs. Oscar William Suttle; Sister Mrs. Earl Anderson; and brothers Minor D. and Carl R. Suttle.

Sources—Fallen Heroes of the Bayou City

# Officer Gonzalo Quinones Gonzalez 1960

February 28, 1960
Automobile accident - Pease at Chenevert



DOB—12/23/1931, Age 28
Badge—1405
Class #
Final Resting Place—Forest Park Lawndale
City--Houston, TX

Officer G. Q. Gonzalez was killed early Sunday, February 28, 1960, after his patrol car collided with another car at Pease and Chenvert. Gonzalez was driving west on Pease when his patrol car was struck in the side by a car driven by V. E. Bryant. Mr. Bryant, uninjured, was taken in for questioning.

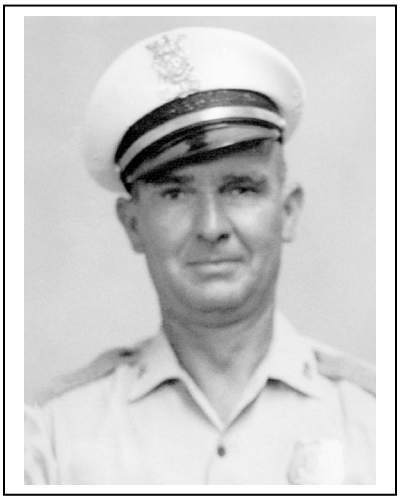
Accident investigators said the officer's car careened into a utility pole, shearing it. A witness, L. B. Tompkins, 39, of Hempstead, who was driving behind Gonzales, said the officer ran a red light at Pease and Chenvert when the collision occurred. Gonzalez reportedly suffered a skull fracture and internal injuries.

Officer Gonzalez, 28, had been with the Houston Police Department since December of 1957. He was survived by his wife, Irene Gonzalez; son Gonzalo Gonzalez, Jr.; daughters, Karen and Lisa Gonzalez; parents Mr. and Mrs. R. C. Gonzalez; brother, Mario Gonzalez; and sisters, Carmen Samaniego, Delta Dia, Emma de la Garza, and Eva Trevino.

Source—Houston Police Department Museum Files

# Officer James Thomas Walker 1963

March 8, 1963
Motorcycle Accident at 6100 North Freeway



DOB—1/18/2022, Age 41
Badge–326
Class #
Final Resting Place - Forest Park Lawndale
City--Houston, TX

James Walker, whom fellow officers described as a "confirmed motorcycle man," was killed Friday, March 8, 1963, when his motorcycle rammed the rear of a car being driven by Mrs. Florence L. Cundiff during morning rush hour traffic.

The accident happened on the east side service road in the 6100 block of the North Freeway. No charges were filed at that time.

Police said Mrs. Cundiff changed lanes into the path of Walker, who was chasing a speeder. Officer Walker died about an hour after the accident in St. Joseph's Hospital. The autopsy revealed that he died from a heart attack.

Officer Walker had been on the police force since 1948 and had been a motorcycle patrolman since 1951. He was survived by his wife, Ethel Mae Walker; and five children, Mrs. Ned Montgomery, Mrs. Charles Sullivan, Tommie Walker, Jamie Walker, and James T. Walker Jr.

Source—Houston Police Department Museum Files

# Sergeant Charles Raymond McDaniel 1963

August 4, 1963
Automobile accident at 14300 Hempstead Hwy.



DOB—8/31/1932, Age 40
Badge—Sgt.
Class #5
Final Resting Place—Woodlawn Cemetery
City--Houston, TX

Sergeant McDaniel died before dawn on Sunday, August 4, 1963, in a head-on collision on Hempstead Road that left two cars demolished. He had just gotten off duty after working a 10-hour shift and was driving home when the accident occurred.

Sgt. McDaniel was driving alone in a 1959 police Plymouth sedan and veered into the wrong lane and into the path of William G. Stockton's car. Stockton was quoted as saying at the hospital that he tried to avoid the crash with Sgt. McDaniel's car, but did not have time. Stockton said he was driving about 55 miles per hour in the 35 mile per hour zone when he saw McDaniel's oncoming car on the wrong side of the road.

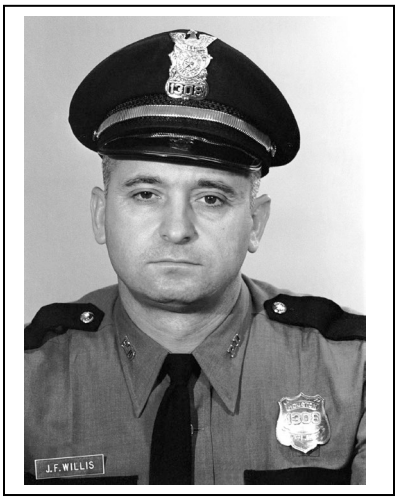
Sgt. McDaniel died at the scene from injuries he suffered from the accident. Sgt. McDaniel had been with the police department since January 1957 and was assigned to the Vice Division. Services were held in the Heights Funeral Home with burial in Woodlawn Cemetery.

Officer C. R. McDaniel was survived by his wife, Jeanie McDaniel; daughters, Deborah Ann and Jacque McDaniel; son, Charles R. McDaniel; sisters, Mrs. A. M. Loy and Hazel Inman; brothers, W. E. McDaniel, Ralph L. McGraw, Don A. McDaniel, William E. McDaniel, and Jerry E. McDaniel.

Source—Houston Police Department Museum Files

# Officer James Franklin Willis 1964

July 1, 1964
Automobile accident at 9000 Market




DOB—6/15/1925, Age 39
Badge—1308
Class #15
Final Resting place—Galloway Cemetery
City-- Galloway, TX

Houston Police Officer James Franklin Willis was killed in the line of duty on July 1, 1964, in an automobile accident on Market Street. Accident Division Lt. J. D. Belcher said Willis apparently lost control of his patrol car and it veered onto the grass on the left-hand side of the road. As Officer Willis swerved back onto the street, his car was hit by Thomas Lewis Jones. Officers believed that Jones was in his proper lane and there were no skid marks.

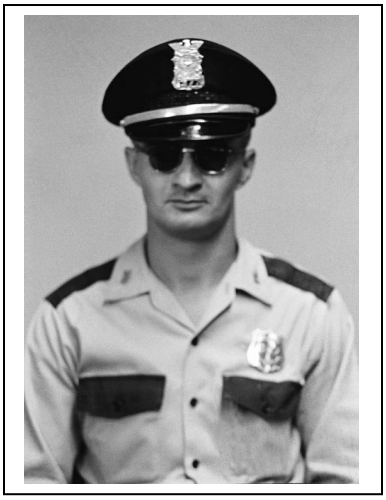
The impact sheared the patrol car in half behind the front seat. Officer Willis was hurled out at the point of impact when the front half of the car was thrown 120 feet. At the time of the auto accident, it is speculated that he was chasing a speeder in the 9000 block of Market.

Officer J. F. Willis was survived by his wife, Lois; and sons, Douglas and Robert.

Source—Houston Police Department Museum Files

# Officer Herbert N. Planer 1965

February 18, 1965
Gunfire at 5000 Navarro



DOB—3/3/1932, Age 32
Badge–1377
Class #16
Final Resting place—V A Cemetery
City--New Jersey

Officer Herbert N. Planer was working an extra job at LaFonda West Apartments, when he was gunned down about 1:45 a.m. on Thursday, February 18, 1965, by Donald Ray Speck, an ex-convict. Speck had been surprised by Officer Planer when he was trying to steal a car.

In his statement to authorities, he told of "walking down Sage Road, about 1:30 a.m., looking for a car to steal." As he was driving away in the stolen car, another car pulled up, blocking him, and a spotlight turned on him. The car "wasn't running right, anyway," Speck said, "so I jumped out and dodged behind a parked car." Officer Planer "got out of his car. He had something in his hand, I thought it was a gun," Speck said. He fired 12 times at Officer Planer, who was unarmed at the time.

About three hours after the incident, Speck was arrested at the Dobbs House at Richmond. Speck had walked in, ordered coffee and told the short-order cook, "Call the law, I've killed a man."

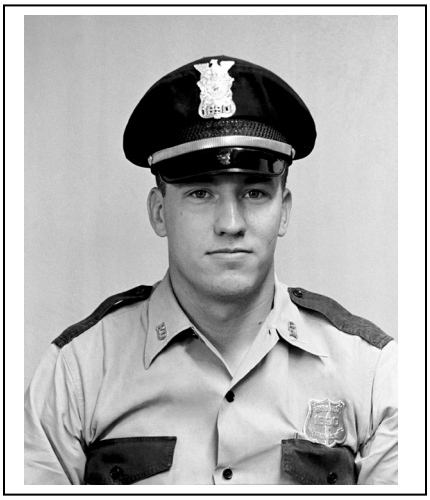
Officer Planer joined the Houston Police Department in 1960 and was assigned to the Traffic Division.

He was survived by his father, George W. Planer; daughter, Margareta Antoinette Planer; and brothers, George W. Planer, Tommie Planer, and Eddie Planer.

Source—Houston Police Department Museum Files

# Officer Floyd Taylor Deloach Jr. 1965

June 30, 1965
Gunfire at 650 W. Crosstimbers



DOB—10/20/1936, Age 28
Badge—1690
Class #22
Final Resting place—Forest Park Lawndale
City--Houston, TX

Accident Investigator Floyd Deloach, who was working an extra job at the North Shepherd Bowling Lanes, 605 Crosstimbers, was shot and killed on Wednesday, June 30, 1965 in the parking lot of the bowling alley. He was in uniform and worked at the lanes from 7 to 11 p.m. as an extra job to supplement his police pay. Bowling Lanes employees said his main job was to patrol the parking lot and prevent looting of customer's cars.

A wallet with identification for Donald J. Davis, 22, was found at the scene of the slaying. The suspect, who was wanted in Abilene on an armed robbery charge, was described as red-haired, freckle-faced, 140 pounds and about 5'7" tall. A man fitting this description was reported seen with Officer DeLoach several minutes before the officer was slain. A witness at the scene reported that Officer DeLoach was sitting in his car with another man in the front passenger seat. The witness glimpsed a brief struggle, then heard several shots and saw Officer DeLoach shoved from the car, which drove off. Officer DeLoach had been shot six times and later died in the Heights Hospital at 11:20 p.m.

More than 100 lawmen, including Texans Rangers, Sheriff Deputies, State Troopers, and City Police, searched the area. Two Piper Cubs, piloted by deputies, 20 bloodhounds, and a dozen mounted officers, also participated in the manhunt.

The 28-year-old officer was described by the night manager of the lanes as very outgoing and friendly. "He was a fine, fine, fellow," she said.

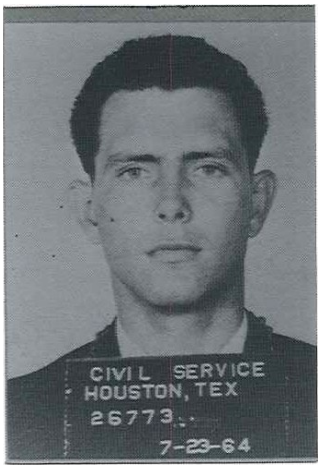
He had been in the police department five-and-a-half years, and spent much of his time working as an accident investigator.

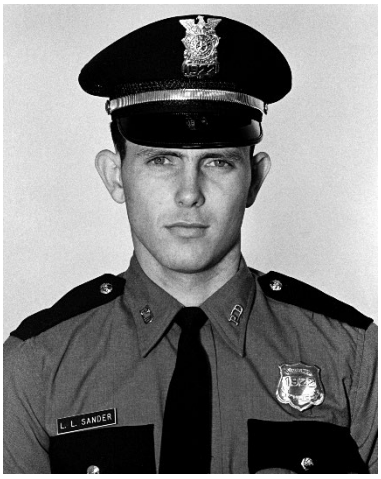
Officer Floyd T. DeLoach was survived by his wife, JoAnn; two children, Terry Lynn and Tracy Lee; his parents Mr. and Mrs. F. T. DeLoach Sr., and a sister, Mrs. Weldon Wells.

Source—Houston Police Department Museum Files

# Officer Louis Lyndon Sander 1967

January 21, 1967
Gunfire at Nance and Hardy




DOB—2/10/1942, Age 24
Badge—2023
Class #31
Final Resting place—Earthman Resthaven
City--Houston

Officer Louis L. Sander was shot and killed on Saturday, January 21, 1967, by an unknown motorist, whom he had apparently stopped for a traffic violation at Nance and Hardy on the north side.

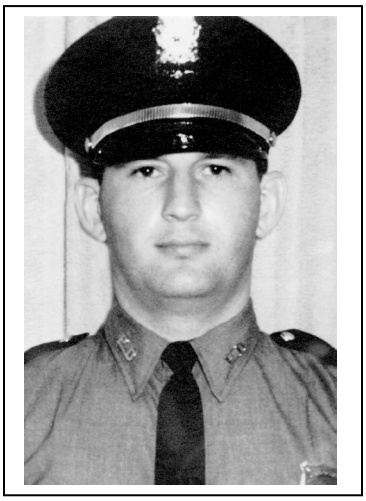
Officer Sander was on duty on a three-wheeled motorcycle. He was shot once and declared dead on arrival at Ben Taub Hospital. Sander fired five shots at his assailant, who drove away at a high rate of speed, according to witnesses. They described the killer's car as a two-tone, late-model Pontiac. Five empty shells were found in Officer Sander's gun. The killer apparently shot him off the motorcycle. The cycle was found on its side in the street. Sander was unable to talk before he died.

Officer Louis L. Sander, 24, had been a policeman since 1964. He was survived by his wife, Linda McBride Sanders and daughter Stacey.

Source—Houston Police Department Museum Files

# Officer Louis Raymond Kuba 1967

May 17, 1967
Gunfire at 3200 Wheeler



DOB—3/12/1942, Age 25
Badge—2074
Class #34
Final Resting place—Forest Park Lawndale
City-- Houston, TX

The riot at Texas Southern University erupted on Wednesday, May 17, 1967, after nearly two months of unrest at the campus. Officer Louis R. Kuba was shot and killed, and two other officers and a student were wounded.

Police had sealed off the campus on Tuesday, May 16, 1967, after motorists passing by the campus reported that they were fired at and rocks were thrown at them. For more than 40 minutes, the students were held at bay with sniper fire and about 200 police officers. Finally, the police stormed the dormitories infantry style, and flushed out the rioters. Officer Kuba was in the first wave of police to storm the residences. Exchanges of fire continued until 3 a.m., and Chief H.B. Short declared the riot to be under control at that time.

Authorities arrested and jailed 488 students. After the riot had been quelled early on Wednesday, police began a search of the men's dormitories for weapons. They found a rifle, a pistol, and a shotgun in the freshmen dorm. Top officials of TSU pledged to rid the campus of "undesirable influences" and seek a solution to the outbursts of violence. The campus was plagued with "outside agitators," several administration heads had said.

The two wounded policemen, Robert G. Blaylock and Alan Dugger, and the student, who was also shot, were taken to Ben Taub Hospital, where they were described as being in good condition.

Kuba enlisted in the Army in June 1962, after his graduation from Garwood High School, and he was discharged in June 1965. He served for three years as missile-technician attached to a base near Chicago. Officer Kuba's sister is quoted as saying that "Louis had all kinds of plans. He'd always wanted to be a police officer. He talked about it even before he got out of the Army."

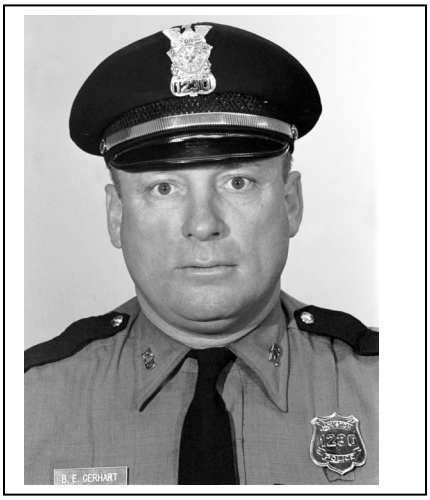
He joined the Houston Police Department and graduated from the Police Academy on April 14, 1967. Officer Kuba, 25, had only been an officer only 34 days when he was fatally wounded.

Officer L. R. Kuba was survived by his wife, Patricia Kuba. She was expecting their first child when he was killed in the line of duty.

Source—Houston Police Department Museum Files

# Officer Ben Eddie Gerhart 1968

June 26, 1968
Gunfire at1000 West Loop N.




DOB—7/14/1922, Age 45
Badge—1230
Class #9
Final Resting place—Memorial Oaks Cemetery
City--Houston, TX

At approximately 11:30 a.m. on Wednesday, June 26, 1968, Officer B. E. Gerhart was murdered making a routine traffic stop in the 1000 block of the West Loop North. Officer Gerhart stopped the driver, Roderick Michael Isaacks, and his wife, Monica, for throwing bottles out of the car on the freeway. Officer Gerhart took Isaacks back to the police car, talked to him, then went back to Isaacks' car to talk to his wife. She said that Isaacks ran past him, opened the right door, reached under the front seat and pulled out a .38 revolver. When Gerhart saw this, he pulled out his pistol, but it was too late. Isaacks shot him one time in the face before Gerhart could fire. The officer fell to the street and Isaacks took his pistol, jumped into his car, and left.

A witness at the scene picked up the mic in the police car and notified the dispatcher, giving him a description of the fleeing Buick. Officers J. A. Shirley and F. C. Squyers spotted Isaacks' vehicle and gave chase. At the North Loop and Hirsh Road, Officer B. L. James joined the pursuit. Speeds reached over 100 miles per hour. Officer James and Isaacks pulled away from Officers Shirley and Squyers. When they reached the intersection of Highway 90 and Talcott, Officer James attempted to stop Isaacks, who side-swiped the officer, causing him to fatally wreck his car.

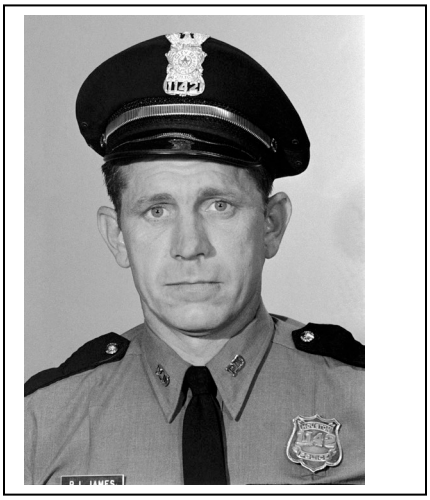
Isaacks abandoned his vehicle and ran south on foot. Isaacks had been shooting at Officer James during the chase, but it is believed that the car accident caused Officer James' death. Sergeant H. L. Stephens, Officers Jeffcoat, Robbins, and Squyers cornered Isaacks in a field just off 9200 Miller Road. Isaacks shot at them, they returned fire, and Isaacks was killed.

"No greater gift can a man give them to lay down his life for a friend."

Source—Houston Police Department Museum Files

# Officer Bobby L. James 1968

June 26, 1968
Automobile accident at 16000 Beaumont Hwy.



DOB—12/1/1929, Age 38
Badge—1142
Class #
Final Resting place—Brookside Memorial
City—Houston, TX

At approximately 11:30 a.m. on June 26, 1968, Wednesday, Officer B. E. Gerhart was murdered making a routine traffic stop in the 1000 block of the West Loop North. Officer Gerhart stopped Roderick Michael Isaacks and his wife, Monica, for throwing bottles out of the car on the freeway. During the stop, Isaacks shot Gerhart to death and fled the scene in his Buick.

A witness at the scene picked up the mic in the police car and notified the dispatcher, giving him a description of the fleeing Buick. Officers J. A. Shirley and F. C. Squyers spotted Isaacks' vehicle and gave chase. At the North Loop and Hirsh Road, Officer B. L. James joined the pursuit. Speeds reached over 100 miles per hour. Officer James and Isaacks pulled away from Officers Shirley and Squyers. When they reached the intersection of Highway 90 and Talcott, Officer James attempted to stop Isaacks, who side-swiped the officer, causing him to fatally wreck his car.

Isaacks abandoned his vehicle and ran south on foot. Isaacks had been shooting at Officer James during the chase, but it is believed that the car accident caused Officer James' death. Sergeant H. L. Stephens, Officers Jeffcoat, Robbins, and Squyers cornered Isaacks in a field just off 9200 Miller Road. Isaacks shot at them, they returned fire, and Isaacks was killed.

"No greater gift can a man give them to lay down his life for a friend."

Source—Houston Police Department Museum Files

# Officer Kenneth Wayne Moody 1969

November 26, 1969
Gunfire at 139 E. 20th




DOB—12/19/1932, Age 36
Badge—1860
Class #28
Final Resting place—Earthman Resthaven
City—Houston, TX

Radio Patrolman Kenneth W. Moody was shot in the darkened hallway of Hamilton Junior High School, 20th and Heights Boulevard, at 1:02 a.m. on Wednesday, November 26, 1969. Officer Moody was hit in the dark hall of the school by a gunman, who opened fire from a first-floor stairway as Moody and his partner, R. R. Dietrich, investigated a silent burglar alarm. The officers returned fire until Moody was struck. As Dietrich pulled Moody out of the line of fire, other police units arrived. Officer Moody was dead upon arrival at the hospital.

The gunman, wounded in the school shootout, was identified by fingerprints as Wesley Sellers, who had police records in Texas, Utah and California. Sellers had been sentenced in Houston in 1966 to 99 years in jail for a burglary conviction. Sellers' sentence was overturned by a federal judge in 1968 and he was released.

Officer K. W. Moody had been in the Houston Police Department for six years. He was survived by his wife, Elva; son, Gregory; daughter, Wendy; mother, Mrs. L. W. Miller; and sister, Mrs. Rod Beasley.

Source—Houston Police Department Museum Files

# Officer Leon Griggs 1970

January 31, 1970
Gunfire at 2616 Blodgett




DOB—2/19/1928, Age 41
Badge—1019
Class #12
Final Resting place—Beautiful Cemetery
City—Houston, TX

Officer Leon Griggs was shot and killed on Saturday, January 31, 1970, while working an extra job as a guard in the Sacco Brothers Food Market at 2616 Blodgett. Homicide Detective Paul Nix theorized Officer Griggs was shot when he encountered several men who were either shoplifting or trying to rob the store. No money was taken. Detective Nix said one man grabbed Griggs and another shot him five times. He also said the men apparently took the policeman's pistol, which was missing when Griggs reached Ben Taub Hospital.

After the shooting, as frightened customers ran through the parking lot, an assistant manager shot it out with one of the fleeing men. Gene Sacco said he was behind the meat counter at the rear of the store when he heard gunfire. "I grabbed my .38 snub-nosed revolver and chased them out," he said. "I got off three shots at one of them. He shot at me as he ran across a vacant lot."

Sacco said the men jumped into a gray Pontiac GTO, parked on the opposite side of the vacant lot in the 4700 block of Live Oak. "Several other men were in the car," Sacco said. "They drove west on Live Oak." Later in the day, a tip to the homicide officers led to the arrest of Leon Charles Dixon. Dixon's police record showed he had been convicted four times for crimes ranging from burglary to auto theft to misdemeanor theft. He had been discharged from state prison in September 1969. About a month after his arrest for Griggs' murder, prosecutors concluded they had no case against him, charges were dropped, and he was released.

Three other men were arrested in Dallas in an unrelated armed robbery where Griggs' duty revolver was recovered. One of the men, Elmer Porter, 30, admitted to being the sole shooter in the officer's killing and was later sentenced to 75 years in prison, despite the prosecutors' request for the death penalty. During the investigation Charles Hancock, 27, and John Ross, 28, were also charged with Officer Griggs' murder.

When Leon Griggs graduated from the Police Academy in 1955, the rookie Houston patrolman's partner was an "old timer" on the beat, H. L. Philips. Officer Philips also worked at the same store on extra duty. He was supposed to relieve his former partner 30 minutes after Officer Griggs was slain. "He was a real good-disposition fellow. He bent over backwards to get along with people. He was a good officer," Officer Philips said of Griggs.

Officer Griggs, 41, had been a policeman for 14 years. He worked the last nine years in the Jail Division. He was survived by his wife, Iona B. Griggs; and son, Kelley Griggs. Iona was expecting when he was killed in the line of duty.

Source—Houston Police Department Museum Files

# Officer Robert Wayne “Bob” Lee 1971

January 31, 1971
Gunfire at 5702 Gulf Fwy




DOB—12/21/1935, Age 41
Badge—2296
Class #14
Final Resting—Earthman Resthaven
City—Houston, TX

On the night of Saturday, January 30, 1971, Officers D. W. Shirley and Robert W. Lee were in route to Central Station from Pearland Police Department with a juvenile suspect, Charles Hill, 16, they had picked up on a transfer. The radio crackled with call after call and as unit 742 headed down the Gulf Freeway toward Central. The dispatcher notified any unit clear and nearby that a robbery was in progress at the Enco Service Station on Wayside and Gulf Freeway. Officers Lee and Shirley began to turn around at Telephone and the Gulf Freeway to check with another unit already responding to the call.

As they passed by the Kayo Service Station on the Gulf Freeway service road and Telephone, Officer Shirley saw a Black male with a gun to the back of the attendant. He told Lee, who was driving, to let him off by the mailbox and he would wait for the suspect to come outside. Officer Lee drove the car around the back of the station and advised the dispatcher about what had taken place. Officer Lee got out, pulled his service revolver, and proceeded toward the Kayo Service Station. They watched the suspect take the money from the attendant and out of the cash drawer. Unit 710 arrived on the scene as back-up. Meanwhile, Hill watched from the back of the patrol car. He observed the robber leave the store, heard a shot, and saw Lee fall to the ground.

Officer Robert Wayne Lee was taken to Ben Taub Hospital and at 1:20 a.m. on Sunday, January 31, 1971, where he passed away. The suspect, T. L Williams, 24, was killed by other officers answering the robbery call. He was a construction worker. ,

Officer D. W. Shirley later became a detective. On April 28, 1982, while serving a fugitive warrant, Detective Shirley also lost his life at the hands of a suspect he was trying to arrest.

Officer R. W. Lee was survived by his wife, Betty J. Lee; parents, Mr. and Mrs. Bryan J. Lee; grandmother, Mrs. Elma Dunn; sisters, Joan Kromer, Carolyn Arnold, Letitia Applegate; and brother, Larry G. Lee.

Source—Houston Police Department Museum Files

# Officer Claude Ronnie Beck 1971

December 10, 1971
Vehicular assault at SW Fwy/Montrose




DOB—12/29/1947, Age 23
Badge—1234
Class #35
Final Resting Place—
City—Oakland, Arkansas

Patrolman Claude R. Beck was struck and killed by a camper truck driven by Walter Meyer at 2:10 a.m., Friday, December 10, 1971. Officer Beck had left his patrol car to question a motorist he had stopped on the Southwest Freeway near Montrose. Officer S. J. Rayne, Beck's partner, said Beck was approaching the car on the freeway side at the time he was struck by the camper. He was killed instantly.

The driver, Walter Meyer, was charged with murder by auto. Officer Beck was a native of Fordyce, Arkansas, and had been married for only 18 days before his death. Prior to the wedding, he wrote a letter with the instruction, "To Open in the Event of My Death" on the envelope. The document explained that he had always wanted to be a police officer since he was a boy and that his aim was to be a "Good Policeman." He asked that his body be sent back to his hometown of Fordyce for burial there by his parents, Mr. and Mrs. William H. Beck.

Fellow officers said Beck was a favorite of the kids in public housing projects where Beck worked extra as a security officer. "They'd follow him around all the time," said Officer Jack Heard, Jr., a friend. Other officers said Beck gave half of the extra money he earned to the poor children at the housing projects.

Officer C. R. Beck was survived by his wife, Sheila Darden; parents, Mr. and Mrs. Harold Beck; grandparents, Mary Beck, and Mr. and Mrs. Claude Green; and sister, Lyn Bounds.

Source—Houston Police Department Museum Files

# Officer David Franklin Noel 1972

June 17, 1972
Stabbed at 316 N. Nagle



DOB—09/22/1943, Age 28
Badge—2084
Class #34
Final Resting place—Zavalla,
City—Zavalla, TX

On Friday night, June 16, 1972, Officers J. R. Davis and David Noel were working an extra job in uniform at Castillo's Bar, 316 N. Nagle. In many ways, it was a typical extra job at a club. Most club-goers were there to have a good time and occasionally, there would be one or two that would become loud or cause a disturbance. That Friday night was no exception. As the clock began to wind closer to closing time, one of the customers, Paul V. DeLeon, became disruptive.

Officers Noel and Davis approached the suspect and suggested that he needed to calm down and go about his business or he would be asked to leave. During this conversation, another patron, who was holding a bottle in his hand, stated, "You can't make me go home." Still another customer, a female, entered into the conversation with the two officers. By this time, they were all standing outside of the club. Yet another individual came outside and began to interfere with the officers' investigation. The female said to DeLeon, who was under arrest, "*Picalo*." This is Spanish meaning to "stick him" or "stab him." DeLeon wheeled around and pulled a knife from the waistband of his trousers. The suspect struck Officer Noel about the chest and the officer was heard to say "Dave, he got me!" Officer Noel was rushed to Ben Taub Hospital but was declared dead on arrival from stab wounds at 1:53 a.m.

Paul V. DeLeon was tried in 174th District Court by Judge Edward Dugan on September 22. He was found guilty of murder with malice aforethought and sentenced to 20 years in the Texas Department of Corrections.

Officer D. F. Noel was survived by his wife, Mrs. David Noel; daughters, Sherry Noel and Shannon Noel; parents, Mr. and Mrs. J.M. Noel, Sr.; and brothers and sisters.

Source—Houston Police Department Museum Files

# Officer Jerry Leon Spruill 1972

October 26, 1972
Gunfire at 616 Westheimer




DOB—3/27/1943, Age 29
Badge—2458
Class #42
Final Resting place—VA Cemetery
City—Houston, TX

Patrolman Jerry L. Spruill was hired for an extra job at the Silver Dollar Restaurant at 616 Wertheimer. His duties were to patrol the area around the restaurant because they had experienced several disorderly young people congregating around the building and creating a nuisance. On his first night on the job, Officer Spruill was seen talking with two unidentified men inside the restaurant. A little later, he walked outside to move his car when the same two men shot him several times. Officer Spruill died a few minutes later in the parking lot of the restaurant.

Officer Jerry L. Spruill, 29 years old, started to work for the Houston Police Department in 1969. He was well known and a friend of many at the North Shepherd Substation, where he was stationed.

Spruill was survived by his wife, Marcia, and two sons, Jeffery and Scott.

Source—Houston Police Department Museum Files

# Officer Antonio Guzman, Jr. 1973

January 9, 1973
Gunfire at 6700 Telephone




DOB—9/18/1942, Age 30
Badge—1111
Class #51
Final Resting place—VA Cemetery
City—Houston, TX

At 10:40 p.m. on Tuesday, January 9, 1973, in the 6700 block of Telephone Road, Officer Antonio Guzman and Officer Bradley Mills stopped a car because they noticed it had defective taillights. The officers walked up to the driver's side window and noticed a water pipe, the type used to smoke marijuana or hashish, and several rounds of ammunition in the car. Believing there could also be a gun in the car, Officer Guzman asked the suspect where his gun was. He then drew a small caliber pistol and opened fire, fatally wounding Officer Guzman. Both Guzman and Mills fired several rounds at the gunman, wounding him. The suspect managed to run to a nearby gas station on the corner and continued to return fire. He then fell to the ground in the parking lot of the gas station.

Officer Guzman was rushed to a nearby hospital but passed away before arrival. He was survived by his wife, Candice Guzman; parents, Mr. and Mrs. Antonio Guzman, Sr.; son, John P. Guzman; sisters, Arny Oranday and Cathy Gutierrez; and brother William Guzman.

Source—Houston Police Department Museum Files

# Officer David Huerta 1973

September 19, 1973
Gunfire at 918 Heights




DOB—4/11/1946, Age 27
Badge—2341
Class #40
Final Resting place—Forest Park Lawndale
City—Houston, TX

On Thursday, July 19, 1973, Officer David Huerta was fatally gunned down while attempting to resolve a family disturbance.

While on duty working in the Traffic Enforcement Division, Officer Huerta was flagged down by Terry Lynn Brandt. She told the officer that her husband, Roland, was back at her apartment. Judge Robert Lowery had issued a restraining order forbidding Mr. Brandt from visiting or coming over to his wife's apartment.

Officer Huerta accompanied the complainant to her apartment at 918 Heights Boulevard. The suspect was there talking with a friend when Officer Huerta arrived. There was no hint that the suspect would turn violent. At the time, one of the first items an officer would look for when out of radio contact was a telephone. Officers had the radio inside of the police car if they needed immediate help. If they were out of the car, the only way to get assistance if a situation became violent was a telephone, providing they could find one. Once inside the complainant's apartment, Officer Huerta advised the Roland he would have to leave. The suspect said he needed to get some of his clothes out and then he would go. Huerta accompanied Mrs. Brandt to her estranged husband's car to get some of her clothes and then re-entered the apartment to use the phone. The suspect was still there and was advised again that he would have to leave. Huerta used the phone to call his office and while he was on the phone, the suspect retrieved a 12-gauge shotgun and fatally shot Officer Huerta. He was only 27 years old.

Mrs. Brandt was also shot and killed while trying to use the phone. When Houston Police Department was notified of the shootings, they immediately surrounded the apartment and attempted to use tear gas to get the suspect out. Rather than surrender, the suspect took his own life. It came to light afterwards that the suspect had threatened to kill his wife if she went on with the divorce and had even threatened to kill her in the courtroom.

The loss of Officer David Huerta was felt throughout the department. He was very well thought-of by his colleagues. At some point in their careers, all officers respond to domestic violence calls.

He was survived by his wife, Mrs. David Huerta; daughter, Marcie Ann Huerta; parents, Mr. and Mrs. Genaro Huerta; and brother, Daniel Huerta.

Source—Houston Police Department Museum Files

# Officer Jerry Lawrence Riley 1974

June 18, 1974
Automobile accident at 2800 Old Galveston Road




DOB—3/30/1950, Age 24
Badge—1516
Class #45
Final Resting—South Park Cemetery
City—Pearland, TX

Officers Jerry L. Riley and Ira O. Franks received a call to assist another officer. En route, their car collided with a tractor-trailer rig at Park Terrace and Old Galveston Road. Officer Riley, who was critically injured, underwent two operations for a depressed skull fracture. His fellow officers contributed 30 pints of blood to try and save his life. Officer Franks was injured also but was later listed in good condition at St. Joseph's Hospital. The suspect was charged with negligent collision for failing to yield the right of way to an emergency vehicle.

Officer Riley had joined the Houston Police Department in October 1970, after graduating from Jesse Jones High School. He had previously been rated "outstanding" in a department performance review.

He died at 11:30 a.m. on Tuesday, June 18, 1974, at Ben Taub Hospital. Services were held at Forest Park Funeral Home at 10:30 a.m. on Friday, June 21, 1974. The burial was at South Park Cemetery in Pearland.

Survivors include his wife, Sherry; daughter, Shane; and sister, Cathy Condon.

Source—Houston Police Department Museum Files

# Officer Johnny Terrell Bamsch 1975

January 30, 1975
Gunfire at 4600 Yale




DOB—09/10/1947, Age 27
Badge—1388
Class #55
Final Resting place—Rosewood Cemetery
City-- Humble TX

Officer John Bamsch made the supreme sacrifice on January 31, 1975, while attempting to arrest a robbery suspect.

Officers Bamsch and J. D. Ellis were riding in unit 1161 at approximately 12:45 a.m. on January 30, 1975. Ellis was driving and Bamsch was on the passenger side in the front seat. The officers were traveling south in the 4600 block of Yale. Bamsch told his partner to pull over because he observed suspicious activity. The officers turned into a service station driveway on the southeast corner of Yale and Norview. This service station was located across the street from a 7-11 store.

After the officers pulled into the service station, they saw a car, which had its headlights on and motor running as it crept slowly toward Yale Street alongside the store on Norview. About the time the officers saw the car moving forward, they noticed a Black male, later identified as Richard Kyles, come out of the front door of the store. He walked slowly, and the car moved to rendezvous with him at the corner of Yale and Norview.

Officer Bamsch got out of the patrol car and told his partner that he was going to check on Kyles, and for Officer Ellis to follow the car. Officer Bamsch took his pistol out of the holster and ordered Kyles to stop. He started walking across Norview, with Officer Ellis behind him in the patrol car. Officer Ellis heard multiple shots, looked to his right, and saw his partner on the ground. Officer Ellis turned into the entrance of the 7-11 store parking lot and called over the police radio that his partner had been shot, giving the location. He stopped the car and saw the Black male crawling on the ground. He got his shotgun and fired three times. Kyles shouted to Officer Ellis not to shoot anymore because he had thrown his gun across the street. The vehicle which Ellis had been following left the scene, prompting a widespread manhunt for the driver, Robert Thomas, whose name was obtained from Kyles.

The Houston police began searching for Thomas, who was now an accomplice in the murder of a police officer. The police department received a tip from the dispatchers' office that Robert Lee Thomas was seen at approximately 7:20 p.m. on January 20, 1975, at the Gulf Station on West Montgomery at West Little York. At the location, officers observed the described vehicle—a maroon 1967 Chevrolet with rear damage—on West Little York, headed north on DePriest. They immediately pulled in behind this vehicle, turned on red lights and sirens, and followed the vehicle approximately one block, when it pulled over and stopped. As officers approached the car, they noticed an BF 35 seated in the driver's seat and BM 35-40 seated in the front passenger side, and a BM 30 seated in the left rear passenger seat. Officer Carbo approached the passenger's rear seat and demanded identification.

The officer noticed the passenger's hand under a pile of clothing to his right and told him to remove his hand from underneath the clothing. He did so and pulled out his billfold, showing Officer Carbo identification belonging to Robert Lee Thomas. Thomas then bolted from the car and ran north in the 7100 block of DePriest. Officer Carbo and Officer Hall gave pursuit on foot and both tackled Thomas beside a building in the 7200 block of DePriest. He struggled with the officers, and after several minutes, they subdued and handcuffed Thomas. Richard D. Kyles and Robert Lee Thomas were convicted and sentenced to life in prison.

Source—Houston Police Department Museum Files

# Officer Francis Eddie Wright 1975

August 2, 1975
Vehicular Assault at 4500 S. W. Fwy



DOB—10/26/1942, age 32
Badge—584
Class #
Final Resting place—Brookside Cemetery
City—Houston, TX

Officer F. E. Wright responded to the scene of a three-car accident on the Southwest Freeway at New Castle. Because of darkness, there was a danger of oncoming motorists colliding with the already-damaged vehicles. Officer Wright began directing traffic around the accident scene. A vehicle traveling at a high rate of speed hit Officer Wright, knocking him down the freeway some 40 feet. The witnesses' only description of the "failure to stop and render aid" hit-and-run vehicle was that it was a full-sized, light-colored automobile."

Officer Wright, critically injured, was rushed to Bellaire General Hospital, the nearest hospital to the scene. Because of the seriousness of his condition, Officer Wright was transferred to Ben Taub Hospital. On Saturday, August 2, 1975, he passed away.

In trying to save the lives of others by directing traffic around an accident, Officer Wright lost his own life. He was survived by his wife, Billie Jean; daughters, Dena Ann and Nicole. His wife was eight months pregnant at the time of his death.

Source—Houston Police Department Museum Files

# Officer Richard Howard Calhoun 1975

October 10, 1975
Gunfire at 9410 Avenue J




DOB—8/4/1940. Age 35
Badge—2414
Class #42
Final Resting Place—Forest Park Lawndale
City—Houston, TX

Early in the morning on October 10, 1975, information was received from an informant that three prisoners who had escaped form the TDC Sugarland Prison Unit were in a house at 9410 Avenue J. Several county and city patrols went to that location in an attempt to arrest these fugitives. The informant told the Organized Crime Unit that one of the prisoners had been killed by the other two because he was on drugs. Upon arrival at the house, the uniformed officers entered the house through a rear window.

The prisoners were holed up in the upstairs portion of the house. Officer Richard F. Calhoun was leading the way up the stairs, followed by Officers P. Thornton, M. Lyons, and R. Slay. Immediately behind them were Harris County Deputies Pete Cooper, Jay Evans, and George McHado. Suddenly, one of the prisoners leaned over the stair railing and fired one shot, hitting Officer Calhoun in the neck, killing him. The officers returned fire and evacuated the slain officer outside to the street. They immediately called for assistance and numerous officers, both city and county, responded to the call. Officer Calhoun had been placed behind a Harris County unmarked car. County Detectives Pete Cooper and Jay Evans were with Calhoun's body, and pinned down by a barrage of bullets from the fugitives.

For an unknown period of time, the escapees and the officers exchanged gunfire. The SWAT team arrived on-scene and fired tear gas canisters into the house, which caught fire. After the blaze was extinguished, two bodies were found upstairs, burned beyond recognition. A deceased male was discovered near the rear door and had apparently been strangled. Rigor mortis had already set in, and it was believed that he had been dead for approximately six hours. He was identified as Michael Goodwin Robins, one of the escapees from the prison unit.

The other two bodies, believed to be the escapees, were positively identified later the next day by the Harris County Medical Examiner as Noel F. Smith and Benjamin F. Windberry. Smith's cause of death was determined to be suicide, as he had a 25-caliber gunshot wound to the mouth. Windberry cause of death was due to a large caliber gunshot wound in the left chest with an exit to the back. Doctor Jachmezyk stated that both Windberry and Smith had died prior to being burned. Officer Calhoun, known by many of his friends as "Rojo," was liked and respected by all of those who knew him.

Officer R.H. Calhoun was survived by his wife, Arlene; and children, Robert, Donna, Terri and Barbara.

Source—Houston Police Department Museum Files

# Officer George Garza Rojas 1976

January 28, 1976
Stabbed at 7035 Harrisburg



DOB—2/23/1946, Age 29
Badge—2199
Class #37
Final Resting Place—Brookside Cemetery
City—Houston, TX

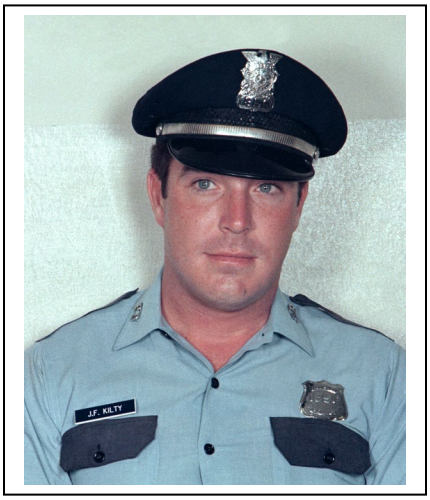
On Tuesday, January 27, 1976, Officer George G. Rojas attended a party at The Latin World Club in the 7000 Harrisburg. A fight broke out in the club and Officer Rojas, identifying himself as a police officer, attempted to break it up. One of the combatants slashed the officer's neck with a hook knife. Officer Rojas drew his pistol but due to being weak from the loss of blood, dropped the weapon. He picked up his gun but dropped it a second time. Another suspect involved in the argument grabbed the gun and fled the scene. Officer Rojas then staggered to the bar, where he collapsed. He died about five hours later at 3:45 a.m. in Ben Taub Hospital.

Officer Rojas was a Houston police officer for about eight years. He had worked in dispatch, jail, and narcotics divisions before joining the patrol division. Officer Rojas was born in Nuevo Laredo, Mexico. He attended Jefferson Davis High School in Houston. Rojas was survived by his wife, Mary Rojas, and 8-year-old daughter, Sonya.

Source—Houston Police Department Museum Files

# Officer James Frederick Kilty 1976

April 8, 1976
Gunfire at 2929 S.W. Freeway




DOB—11/11/1940, Age 35
Badge—1856
Class #28
Final Resting Place—Memorial Oaks
City—Houston, TX

On Tuesday, April 8, 1976, Officer James F. Kilty, assigned to the Narcotics Division, was working undercover on a case. He and two other officers were serving an arrest and search warrant on a hotel restaurant cook, Willie Howard Jr., at the Ramada Inn off the Southwest Freeway. A witness said the suspect came in, saw the police, and shouted, "Here I am, come and get me!" before he started firing at the officers.

Officer Kilty was shot and transported to Ben Taub Hospital, where he later died. He was 35 years of age at the time of his death. Howard was also killed. Officers said that there was about an ounce of heroin in the suspect's hat.

Officer Kilty had been honored by the Exchange Club of Greenway Plaza in 1971 for having made 342 drug arrests in 1970. In 1973, he was named *Officer of the Year* by the 100 Club of Houston. Officer Kilty joined the Houston Police Department in 1963. He was a patrol officer for 11 years before transferring to the Narcotics Division in 1974. He was a very well-known, well-liked, friendly person. His bravery and honored past as a Houston police officer will be remembered for years to come.

Officer J.F. Kilty was survived by his parents, Mr. and Mrs. William Kilty; brothers, Mark, Tom and William Kilty; and sister, Marian Kilty.

Source—Houston Police Department Museum Files

# Officer Timothy Lowe Hearn 1978

June 8, 1978
Gunfire at 6800 Harrisburg



DOB—11/8/1949, Age 28
Badge—1678
Class #67
Final Resting Place—Corinth Cemetery
City—Buckholts, TX

On Thursday, June 8, 1978, Officers Tim A. Hearn and M. K. Jordan, who were both assigned to the Narcotics Division, were involved in a shooting that took the life of Officer Hearn and wounded Officer Jordan.

The officers had been working together and received some information on a narcotics suspect, Rudy Esquiel. Their investigation had taken them to a Sears's parking lot in the 6800 block of Harrisburg. From this vantage point, they surveilled the Early Roberts Restaurant. At approximately 3:00 a.m. the suspect and two females came out of the restaurant. Officers Hearn and Jordan left their concealment and proceeded across the street, where they contacted the suspects and placed all three under arrest. A large crowd began to gather as the suspects were taken to the parking lot, where they would be searched before being taken to Central Station for further investigation. Esquiel brandished a .38 caliber revolver and started shooting, hitting both Hearn and Jordan. Officer Hearn fell to the ground and Officer Jordan, though wounded, notified the dispatcher, "shots fired, officer down, assist the officer."

Officer Tim Hearn was flown by Life Flight Helicopter to Hermann Hospital, where he underwent emergency surgery. At 5:20 a.m. on June 8, 1978, Officer Tim Hearn passed away as a result of the gunshot wounds he received.

The suspect was charged with capital murder, attempted capital murder, and possession of heroin. On August 18, 1978, in 180th District Court, Judge Fred Hooey sentenced Esquiel to death by lethal injection.

Officer Tim Hearn was well-thought of throughout the Department. Since his death, the "Tim Hearn Memorial Softball Tournament" is held in his honor each year. Though he is gone, his memory shall remain, for in addition to the tournament, a softball diamond, originally called Jackson Hill, was renamed "Tim Hearn Field."

Officer T. L. Hearn was survived by his wife, Jenny Hearn; son Torrance Hearn; parents, Mr. and Mrs. Robert L. Hearn and sister, Sayra Hesselsweet.

Source—Houston Police Department Museum Files

# Officer Charles Henry “Pop” Baker 1979

August 16, 1979
Gunfire at 10200 Silvercrest



DOB—12/27/1927, Age 51
Badge—CM-122
Final Resting Place—Copeland Chapel
City—Conroe TX

Charles Baker, 51, a four-year employee of the marshal’s office, was killed about 9:30 p.m. Thursday, August 17, 1979, in the 10200 block of Silvercrest on the City’s northeast side. Baker and his partner, R. A. McCammon, 23, spotted a young man walking along Silvercrest near Parker. He fit the description of a man they were seeking in order to serve a misdemeanor traffic warrant.

The officers stopped their marked unit and Baker and McCammon, both in uniform, got out and began to question the man. “We saw he was sweating a lot,” said McCammon, with the marshal’s office for three years. “His pockets were stuffed with bills and change. I thought he might be a robber.”

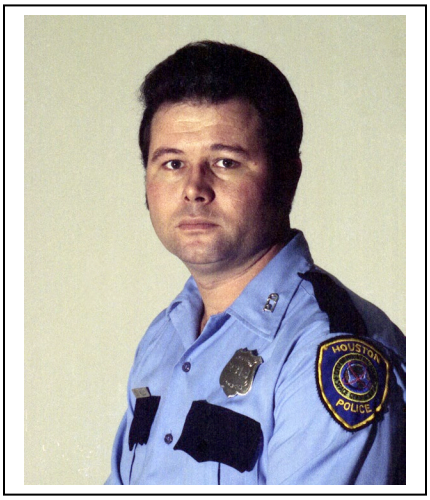
Baker told McCammon to park their car on the side of the street. He walked back to the driver’s side and then heard sounds of a scuffle, followed by several gunshots. Baker, shot in the chest and right leg, fell to the ground, and died at the scene. McCammon crouched behind the car and exchanged fire with the man, who then fled.

During the gun battle, the man slipped into a ditch. Police said they recovered a cigarette lighter and some of the $300 taken in the lounge robbery.

Source—Houston Police Department Museum Files

# Detective Victor Ray Wells, III 1980

October 2, 1980
Gunfire at 6800 Harrisburg




DOB—12/18/1946, Age 33
Badge—Detective 693
Class #39
Final Resting Place—Brookside Cemetery
City—Houston, TX

Robbery Detective Victor Ray Wells III was fatally shot in the chest by a cab driver in the 6800 block of Harrisburg on Thursday, October 2, 1980, at about 10 p.m. He was taken to Ben Taub Hospital, where he passed away. Several witnesses stated that Detective Wells was in plainclothes and was driving an unmarked police car, but his police badge and radio were visible to the cab driver. His pistol was in its holster on the back of his belt. The witnesses said Detective Wells had stopped his car at the intersection in front of the cab, which was blowing its horn, and walked back to the taxi, apparently to find out why the cab driver was blowing the horn. While standing by the cab's door with his hands at this side, Detective Wells was shot. He then staggered, clutched his stomach, and collapsed. The witnesses stated they didn't hear any arguing, and that there was no fighting.

A woman, who was driving with her two daughters past the scene when the shooting occurred, let her 13-year-old daughter out of the car with instructions for her to use the police radio in Well's car to notify dispatchers that an officer had been shot by a driver of a yellow cab. The woman and her other daughter followed the cab, which quickly raced from the scene. They wrote down the cab's license plate number and returned to the officer's car. Fellow officers had put out an all-points alert on the cab's license plate number and the cab driver was arrested in the 2900 block of Main Street a short time later by Officers Dolph R. Daniel, III and Paul A. Mueller. A pistol, believed to be the murder weapon, was found in the 2700 block of Main, according to information given by witnesses. Homicide Detective Bruce Franks had stated that the cab driver refused to give a statement concerning the incident. Charges were filed on October 3, 1980.

Assistant Chief John Bales, in charge of investigations, and other police officers praised and credited the woman and her two daughters for supplying the information that led to the arrest. Chief Bales said that the cab had a sticker on it reading, "Cabs on Patrol," which are given to cab drivers, who agree to radio information to officers concerning crimes they see. The police department had received much help from cab drivers and cab companies, which is why police officers would not normally suspect a cab driver of doing anything violent to any officer. Robbery Detectives had stated that Detective Wells had several case reports in his car, and was evidently making follow-up investigations when the shooting had occurred.

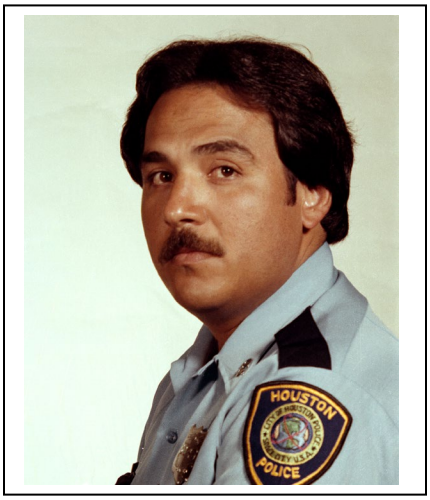
Wells was a graduate of Jefferson Davis High School and had been a police officer for 12 years. He had been assigned to the Robbery Division about six months prior, after being a detective in the Homicide Division.

He was survived by his wife, Linda Wells; daughter, Jennifer; son, Kevin; step-children, Michelle and Christine Root; parents, Mr. and Mrs. V.R. Wells, Jr.; brothers, William Donnie and Samuel David Wells; and grandmother, Viola Pangburn.

Source—Houston Police Department Museum Files

# Officer Jose Adolfo Zamarron 1981

April 18, 1981
Vehicular Assault at 12700 Market




DOB—2/9/1953, Age 28
Badge—3025
Class #74
Final Resting Place—Forest Park Lawndale
City—Houston, TX

On the night of April 18, 1981, at 11:20 p.m., Houston Police Officer Jose Zamarron lost his life while directing traffic around the scene of a traffic accident. He made the supreme sacrifice in the 12700 block of Market Street at the hands of Jerre Ann Williams, who was later charged with involuntary manslaughter. Williams appeared to be intoxicated and was jailed in lieu of a $1,000 bond. Zamarron, who was assigned to Northeast Patrol, had been a Houston police officer for five years and was highly praised as being one of Houston's finest young officers.

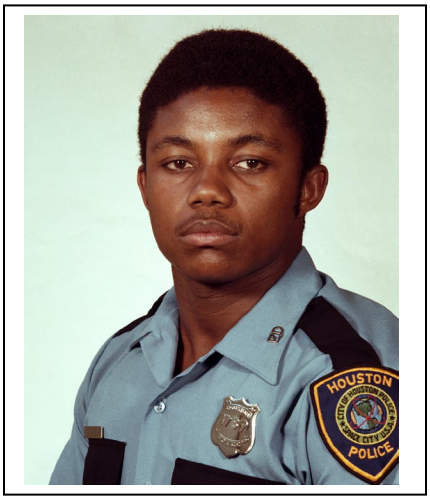
The funeral mass was read on April 20, 1981, in the Resurrection Roman Catholic Church and burial was at the Garden of Gethsemane Cemetery. The loss of a fallen brother seems unbearable, and the more senseless the act, the more grief stricken are those who mourn.

Jose left behind his wife, Elizabeth, and his two sons, Joseph and Jason, with whom all officers mourn and share their sorrow.

Source—Houston Police Department Museum Files

# Officer Winston James Rawlins 1982

March 29, 1982
Motorcycle accident at 8400 South Loop East




DOB—8/1/1958, Age 23
Badge—1787
Class #89
Final Resting Place—Paradise North Cemetery
City—Houston, TX

Motorcycle Officer Winston James Rawlins was killed while issuing a citation on the South 610 Loop East, near State Highway 225, at approximately 7:15 a.m. on Monday, March 29, 1982. Accident Investigator T. D. Owens gave this account of the incident: "Officer Rawlins had stopped a compact car for a traffic violation and had parked his motorcycle in front of the compact. They were westbound on the South Loop and stopped in the right emergency lane along a curved section of roadway. Traffic in the lanes had been slowed by another accident a half-mile away. While Rawlings stood beside the compact car, a gravel truck came around the curve. The driver of the truck saw the stacked-up traffic and tried to keep from hitting a Gulf Oil tank truck, traveling slowly in the right lane. The truck driver veered into the right emergency lane, saw Officer Rawlings and the compact car, and then veered left, colliding with the rear of the gasoline truck. Everybody except Officer Rawlings was able to run before the area was engulfed in flames. A second gravel truck was also caught in the flames and all four of the vehicles involved were destroyed in the fire."

The gasoline truck was carrying about 8,600 gallons of gasoline and when the gravel truck rear-ended it, it exploded into flames. One of the witnesses said, "It sounded like somebody dropped an atom bomb." Officer Rawlins tried to escape the burning truck but was pinned under the wreckage. A newspaper account stated that, "The heat from the accident was so intense that the 90-minute fire caused the beams of the elevated ramp to bend as much as six feet, and ruined some support columns of the freeway." Later on that same day, March 29, 1982, another Houston Police Officer, William E. DeLeon, also lost his life while in the process of writing a ticket on the Southwest Freeway.

Houston Police Officer Lynn Williams, who was a cousin of W. J. Rawlins, stated that becoming a policeman was "a boyhood dream" of her cousin. "All our lives, that's all we talked about—becoming officers," she said. She described Officer Rawlins as a dedicated worker and one whom "everybody liked." A fellow officer on the Motorcycle Detail to which Officer Rawlins was assigned, agreed.

His funeral services were held at the Mt. Sinai Baptist Church in Houston on April 1, 1982. He was 23 years old and was a two-year veteran of the Houston Police Department.

Source—Houston Police Department Museum Files

# Officer William E. DeLeon 1982

March 29, 1982
Vehicular Assault at 1300 S.W. Fwy



DOB—10/3/1946, Age 35
Badge—2280
Class #39
Final Resting Place—Forest Park Lawndale
City—Houston, TX

On Monday, March 29, 1982, Officer William E. DeLeon, Motorcycle Division, had stopped a driver on the Southwest Freeway. As Officer DeLeon was in the process of writing a ticket, a driver in another vehicle struck him, throwing him to the pavement. The driver continued down the freeway without stopping or rendering aid. Shortly afterwards, the police dispatcher was notified that an officer had been struck by a hit-and-run driver on the Southwest Freeway. Many officers responded to the assist call. A Houston Fire Department ambulance was called, and the paramedics worked feverishly to stabilize Officer DeLeon.

Police officers at the scene used their flashlights and news media cameramen used their lights to aid the paramedics in seeing while they gave treatment to the fallen officer. The Life Flight Helicopter was called from Hermann Hospital; but, unfortunately, Officer DeLeon lost his fight for life.

As news of Officer DeLeon's death was circulated, people felt a great loss because he was so well-liked. He was the second officer to be killed on that same day, along with Officer Winston J. Rawlins, who had been killed earlier that morning.

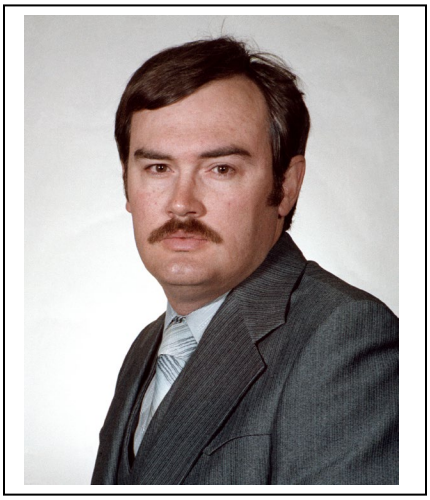
Funeral services were held for Officer DeLeon on April 2, 1982, at the Oak Forest Baptist Church. Over 600 persons, including more than 350 uniformed officers from various law enforcement agencies, attended his service. The Dallas Police Department sent an entire unit of motorcycle police officers to pay their respects at the funeral.

Officer William E. DeLeon was survived by his wife, Patricia, and four children.

Source—Houston Police Department Museum Files

# Officer Daryl Wayne Shirley 1982

April 28, 1982
Gunfire at 2802 Rolido



DOB—9/1/1947, Age 34
Badge—D-638
Class #34
Final Resting Place—Forest Park Lawndale
City—Houston, TX

Officer Daryl Wayne Shirley, a 15-year veteran of the Houston Police Department, was serving as the department's one-man fugitive squad when he was killed at 2:30 p.m. on Wednesday, April 29, 1982, at the Parkstone Townhouse Apartments.

Officer Shirley was serving an arrest warrant at the apartments when the suspect resisted arrest. Shirley and the suspect were wrestling on the upstairs walkway when a witness heard the loud commotion and ran to see what was happening. Officer Shirley told him to call the police. While the witness was at a nearby phone, he heard two shots. When he returned to the walkway, they were gone. Officer Shirley's cowboy hat, badge, and glasses were left behind.

His body was found under a canopied parking lot area a short distance from the walkway. He had been shot once in the left side of the chest and his 9mm automatic pistol was missing.

Officer Shirley was survived by his wife, Donna Shirley; parents, Mr. and Mrs. Willard Shirley; grandmother, Henry Dalton Woodley; daughter, Sarah Michelle Shirley; sons, Steven Wayne Shirley and Jason Allan Shirley; and brother, Jerry Dee Shirley.

Source—Houston Police Department Museum Files

# Officer James Donald Harris 1982

July 13, 1982
Gunfire at 4800 Walker




DOB—10/17/1952, Age 29
Badge—2973
Class #74
Final Resting Place—Forest Park Lawndale
City—Houston, TX

On Tuesday, July 16, 1982, Officer James D. Harris, a K-9 officer assigned to the Southeast Substation, was in the process of conducting an investigation regarding a traffic offense. According to witnesses, he had placed the passenger up against the side of the vehicle when the driver got out of the car and opened fire with a 9mm semi-automatic pistol. The rounds hit Officer Harris in the head, and he slumped to the ground. The suspect began to run down Walker Street with the gun still in his hand. A citizen, Jose Francisco Armijo, 33, was driving in the suspect's direction. Mr. Armijo's ten-year-old son, Jose Armijo Jr., a passenger in the car with his father, witnessed the suspect turn and fire again, this time fatally injuring his father.

As news of Officer Harris' shooting was broadcasted, the area around the shooting scene began to fill with officers looking for the suspects or clues that would lead them to the gunman. Officer Lawrence J. Trepagnier was one of the officers who responded to the scene. As he went around a house and by a garage, the fugitive opened fire, hitting Trepagnier five times. The officer, not realizing he was hit, returned fire and began to run after the suspect. He then felt the pain and collapsed. The suspect ran around the house and confronted five more officers. A gun battle ensued, and the suspect was killed.

Officer Trepagnier later recovered from his wounds and returned to duty.

Assistant District Attorney Terry Wilson had arrived on the scene and had noticed a man crouching not far from where he was investigating the crime scene. Mr. Wilson pulled his weapon and told the suspect to lie on the ground. The suspect was arrested, and near where he had been lying was a .45 caliber automatic pistol.

Officer Harris' widow wrote a letter to the citizens of Houston that was published in a local newspaper on September 1, 1982.

On July 16, 1982, my husband, Officer James D. Harris, was killed in the line of duty. He was totally dedicated to his profession, and I'm thankful that our loving God took him instantly while he was trying to protect the citizens of Houston rather than to let him suffer from a lengthy illness or even the bullets that pierced his precious head. During the last seven months, I have learned much about the citizens of Houston. The vast majority of them are truly kind, compassionate and caring people. I honestly believe that 95 percent of Houston supports the police department. Of course, it is the 5 percent that we hear about who sound so bad and help bring the morale of those dedicated men down. I sincerely appreciate all of the cards of sympathy, many prayers and individual monetary gifts and the contributions to the 100 Club in remembrance of a fine husband, father, and police officer. Thank you for caring, Houston.

Officer J.D. Harris was survived by his wife, Pamela Ann Myers Harris; parents, Nelson D. and Ruth Harris; grandparents, Nelson and Gerry Harris and Robert and Carla Pierson; daughters, Rebecca Brooke Harris and Megan Annett Harris; sister and brother-in-law, Beverly and David Ruetsch; and nephews, Jeff and Todd Ruetsch.

Source—Houston Police Department Museum Files

# Officer Kathleen “Kathy” Cochran Schaefer 1982

August 18, 1982
Gunfire at 2505 W. Bay Area Blvd.



DOB—2/24/1982, Age 34
Badge—1872
Class #89
Final Resting Place—Brookside Manor
City—Houston, TX

On Wednesday, August 18, 1982, officers of the Houston Police Narcotics Division had arranged a “buy bust” in the 2400 block of West Bay Area Blvd. A narcotics suspect had arranged to sell 100 Mandrax tablets to undercover officers posing as dope peddlers. At 7:30 p.m., the buy took place.

Officer Schaefer was working undercover in plain clothes. She stood near a vehicle containing another undercover officer and the suspect. She had drawn her service weapon in preparation for the arrest. As the bust went down, a uniformed Houston Policeman, unaware that Schaefer was a fellow officer, confronted her. He fired his weapon, believing the other narcotics officer’s life was in danger. Schaefer was shot once in the chest. The Life Flight Helicopter was called, but at 8:10 p.m., Officer Kathleen Schaefer passed away.

Officer Schaefer became a Houston police officer in 1979. She distinguished herself among her fellow officers and was known for her dedication to law enforcement. She not only worked very hard as a police officer, but was very active in her church as well. “For some time, Mrs. Schaefer taught religion classes for us, even though her long hours often made it rough on her,” said Rev. Jay Walsh of the Holy Family Catholic Church in Missouri City, where Officer Schaefer and her family regularly attended mass. “Sometimes she would even show up in her uniform to teach the children because she didn’t have time to change.”

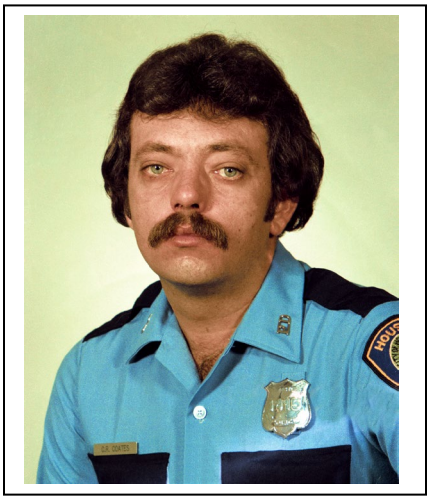
Funeral services were held at the Holy Family Catholic Church in Missouri City, with graveside services at Brookside Memorial Park in Northwest Harris County. Rev. Jay F. Walsh probably put it best when he said, “Officer Kathleen Schaefer put her life on the line in the battle against that diabolic narcotics traffic. She paid the supreme price. She gave her life that you and I may live in a better community.”

Officer Schaefer left behind her husband, Lt. Lyndon Schaefer, HPD supervisor; her daughter, Theresa, 11; and her son, Lyndon, 10.

Source—Houston Police Department Museum Files

# Officer Charles Robert Coates II 1983

February 23, 1983
Gunfire at 12600 Memorial



DOB 4/8/1946, Age 36
Badge—1415
Class #75
Final Resting Place—
City—Florissant, MO

On February 23, 1983, Officer Charles Robert Coates, II, passed away from injuries he sustained in an accident that occurred on May 2, 1982. Officer Coates was investigating a traffic accident when he was struck by a car at the 12600 block of Memorial, about 8:30 p.m. on May 2, 1982. He received massive head and other internal injuries in the incident and was taken to Hermann Hospital by Life Flight Helicopter. Coates was rushed into surgery and fellow officers donated blood to help in save him.

A witness stated that Officer Coates was investigating an accident in the left lane. A woman drove around the accident, striking Officer Coates with her left front bumper. The 52-year-old pleaded guilty to aggravated assault with a motor vehicle and was given a 10-year probated sentence with a 1,000 dollar fine.

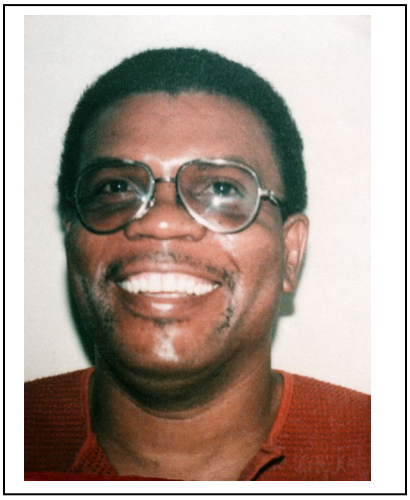
Funeral arrangements were at the Heights Funeral Home and his body was shipped to St. Louis, Missouri, for burial.

Officer Coates was a native of St. Louis, Missouri, and had been a police officer there. He joined the Houston Police Department on September 13, 1976, and worked out of the Northwest Patrol Division as a patrolman. Survivors of Officer C. L. Coates included his wife, Betty; daughter, Christine; parents, Charles and Jacqueline Coates; grandmother, Catherine Graham; sister, Carolyn Alexander; and brother, John Coates.

Source—Houston Police Department Museum Files

# Officer William Moss 1983

September 12, 1983
Automobile accident at 17900 JFK Blvd



DOB 08/17/1941, Age 42
Badge—333
Class—Airport Police
Final Resting Place—
City—New York

Officer Moss was working the evening shift at Houston Intercontinental Airport. He was in the process of responding to an accident when he lost control of his patrol car, traveling southbound on JFK Blvd about 3:45 p.m. The patrol car slid on the wet grass into several trees. During the investigation, it was concluded that speed and the wet surface were contributing factors along with a bald tire in the rear.

Moss was survived by his wife Flora, daughter Kim, and three sons Barry, Bryant and Roland. Also, by a stepson Michael Jones and his parents William and Lula Moss and seven sisters.

Funeral services were held at the Heights Funeral Home Chapel on Thursday, September 15, 1983, at 1:30 pm. His body was sent to New York for burial.

Source—Houston Police Department Museum Files

# Officer Maria Michelle Groves 1987

April 10, 1987
Vehicular Assault 10800 Katy Fwy



DOB -11/13/1964, Age 22
Badge—4292
Class #122
Final Resting Place—Garden of Memories
City---Lufkin TX

Officer Maria Michelle Groves became a Houston police officer on November 9, 1984, graduating from the Houston Police Academy just four days before her 20th birthday. She had just transferred to the night shift after having previously worked the evening shift at the Westside Command Station. On Friday morning, April 10, 1987, Officers Groves and D. P. Jackson, riding Unit 12G62, were assigned to check by with Accident Unit 18Z20, who was investigating an accident in the 10600 block of the Katy Freeway Inbound.

Officers Groves and Jackson were assigned to divert the traffic onto the feeder by blocking the access to the accident with flares. At approximately 12:43 a.m., a vehicle sped through the flares and struck Officer Groves with enough force to knock her approximately 200 feet. A Life Flight Helicopter landed within a few minutes, but at approximately 2:30 a.m., Officer Maria Michelle Groves passed away.

On Monday, April 13, 1987 at the Second Baptist Church at 6400 Woodway, a sea of blue uniforms filled the church as fellow law enforcement officers assembled to pay their last respects to a fallen sister. The services opened with "How Great Thou Art," and one of the lyrics stood out: "As I watch the sparrow, so too did you watch over me."

The Pastor remarked, "We ask the question, Why? It is the hardest of all the questions. Who, What, Where and When are eventually answered, but why? That one is the hardest. Someone asked if Michelle's life was wasted. Dear friends, Michelle's life was not wasted. You see, longevity of life does not necessarily equate quality. Michelle lived but 22 years and just look at the lives she touched. Even in death, Michelle continues to touch lives. Michelle had recently made a re-commitment to the Lord."

The Pastor went on to say that her life was in order and quoted the scriptures that said "Greater love hath no man than this, that he lay down his life for a friend." Those who wear the blue put their lives on the line for the lawful and the lawless. The service was attended by over 2,000 people, the vast majority being police officers.

Also in attendance were the mayor, sheriff of Harris County, district attorney, most of the Houston City Council, chief of police and command staff, and a host of friends and loved ones. Officer Groves was buried at Lufkin, where she grew up. More than 200 law enforcement officers, friends and loved ones attended the graveside service.

The driver who caused the death of Officer Groves was found to have 0.18 percent alcohol level in his blood and had a previous conviction for driving while intoxicated in April of 1977. He was charged with involuntary manslaughter and was held in lieu of a 5,000-dollar bond.

Officer M. M. Groves was survived by her father, Clyde Groves; grandparents, Mr. and Mrs. R.S. Curtis; sister, Kelley Groves O'Neal.

Source—Houston Police Department Museum Files

# Officer Andrew Winzer 1988

February 18, 1988
Automobile accident/drowning at Franklin/Louisiana



DOB -6/24/1957, Age 30
Badge—4330
Class #112
Final Resting Place—Paradise North
City—Houston, TX

Houston Police Officer Andrew Winzer lost his life in the line of duty on February 18, 1988. He drowned in Buffalo Bayou when his patrol car was hit at Louisiana and Franklin by Andres Abelina Alfaro. Winzer's vehicle spun out of control and hit a guardrail, flipping over and falling forty feet into the murky waters of the bayou. Alfaro was cited for driving with a suspended license and for having no proof of insurance.

Police diver Officer Jeff Shipley heard the call and rushed to the headquarters to get diving equipment. He had to wait for someone to open the door because he did not have a key. He was on the scene by 9:59 p.m. "I could feel him. I got his badge and name plate and brought them up," said Shipley. He also praised the patrol officers, who jumped into the cold water wearing only their uniforms.

The rescuers believed that the chilly water of the bayou might slow down Winzer's body functions enough to give them a few extra minutes to save his life. They also hoped that there was an air pocket in the car for the officer. Unfortunately, neither happened. The car was destroyed. Officer Shipley thought if the car had been intact, there might have been a chance.

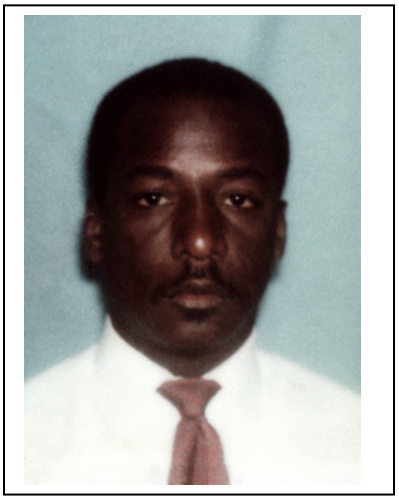
Winzer was a police officer for four years before the tragedy happened. He was well thought of by the people that knew him. Sergeant D. J. Crain said of Winzer, "He was what every sergeant wanted in an officer." Officer Walter Redman said, "I have known no other officer more dedicated to the job, with a great desire to be a police officer, with the intention of serving you, the community. Andrew did that constantly on and off duty."

The funeral was attended by the police chief, the mayor, and Congressman Mickey Leland. Funeral services were held on February 23, 1988 at the Greater Zion Missionary Baptist Church. Burial was held at Paradise Cemetery North. Officer Winzer was survived by his wife, Lavendra, and son, Corey. He was also survived by a brother, Frank Winzer, III, and a nephew, Untorio Jones.

Source—Houston Police Department Museum Files

# Officer Elston Morris Howard 1988

July 20, 1988
Gunfire at 4330 Richmond



DOB - 9/18/1963, Age 24
Badge—2818
Class #111
Final Resting Place—Calvary Hill
City—Houston, TX

Police Officer Elston M. Howard lost his life in the line of duty on July 19, 1988, while inside an adult bookstore on Richmond Avenue. He was there to ticket the place for violating a city arcade statute. As he waited for a patrol car to transport the clerk to jail, he was shot by Robert Mitchell Jennings three times at close range. While he lay on the floor attempting to get away, Jennings shot him one more time in the head. After the shooting, Jennings instructed the clerk to give him the contents of the cash register and his personal belongings.

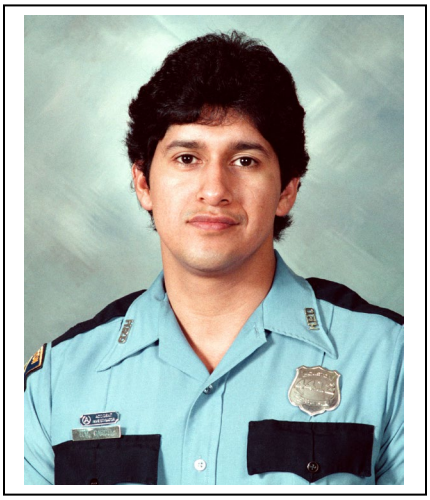
Jennings had previously been in jail on a robbery conviction. He had served ten years of a 30-year sentence and been paroled. A capital murder charge was expected to be filed against him. He was arrested after going to Ben Taub for a gunshot wound to the hand. The investigation led to other suspects in the case and other robberies in the area.

Former mayor Kathy Whitmire; Former police chief Lee P. Brown; and an estimated 2,000 people paid tribute to Howard. He left behind his parents, Era Mae and Alcana; siblings, Sheila Renee Agee, Alvonada Michelle Howard, Virginia Howard-Lane, Eugene Howard, Alcana Howard Jr., and Calvin Howard; a daughter, Tyesha Victoria Howard; and fiancée, Carolyn Thompson.

Source—Houston Police Department Museum Files

# Officer Florentino M. Garcia, Jr. 1989

November 10, 1989
Automobile Accident at 3000 Canal



DOB - 1/9/1962, Age 27
Badge—4412
Class #124
Final Resting Place—VA Cemetery
City—Houston. TX

Florentino M. Garcia, Jr. was killed in the line of duty on November 10, 1989, while escorting a funeral on Canal Street. He was one of two off-duty officers managing traffic for the journey to the cemetery. Garcia was at the rear of the approximately 20-car procession. The other officer was at the front to direct traffic.

Motorist Felipe Martinez, whose vision was obscured by an injury to his right eye, turned left onto Ennis Street from Canal, striking Officer Garcia

Doctor Arniris Alcover heard the crash and rushed outside of his clinic. "He started CPR immediately, and never stopped for a second until the ambulance crew was there," said Police Officer John Sexton. "That was my duty," Alcover said. "What else could I have done? I only feel badly for his family, that I was not able to save him and send him home to them."

Martinez was taken downtown to police headquarters, where he said that he was given clearance to turn by one of the cars and did not see the police officer. He was charged with negligent homicide.

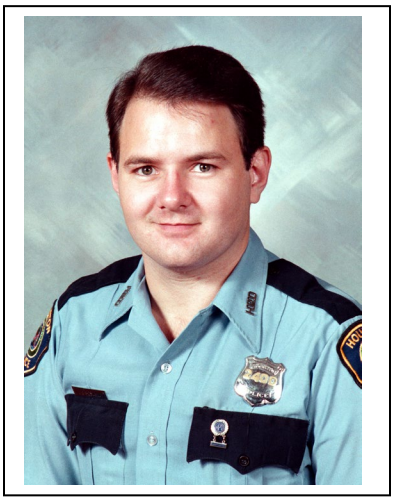
Garcia was the father of two daughters. The children were taken to Hermann Hospital, where their father died just after 11 a.m. His parents were out of town at the time of the tragedy.

Officer Garcia was well known and well liked in the department. Officers also said that Officer Garcia was engaged and would have been married soon.

Source—Houston Police Department Museum Files

# Officer James Charles “Boz” Boswell 1989

December 9, 1989
Gunfire at 9300 Main



DOB - 11/29/1960, Age 29
Badge—2400
Class #129
Final Resting Place— Meridian Memorial
City—Meridian MS

On December 9, 1989, Officer James Charles Boswell was shot and killed by Craig Neil Ogan while Boswell was writing a traffic ticket in his patrol car near the Astrodome.

Officer Boswell and his partner, Officer Gainer, had stopped a motorist for a traffic violation. While handling the traffic incident, a woman came up to the officers and asked for help with a domestic problem. At the same time, Mr. Ogan approached the officers, also asking for help. The officers told Mr. Ogan to wait for a few minutes, as they needed to finish handling the traffic incident and attend to the other woman’s request. Mr. Ogan did not want to wait and started beating on the officers’ car window and saying he worked for the Drug Enforcement Agency and that he needed help immediately. As Officer Boswell exited his vehicle to provide assistance to the parties at the scene, Mr. Ogan pulled a pistol and shot him in the head at point blank range. Immediately after the shooting, Mr. Ogan fled the scene.

Officer Gainer immediately gave chase, despite knowing that Mr. Ogan was armed and dangerous. During the pursuit, Officer Gainer shot Mr. Ogan in the leg. Upon being apprehended, Mr. Ogan was transported to Ben Taub Hospital to be treated for his wounds. Mr. Ogan was subsequently tried for capital murder and given the death sentence.

At the funeral services, Ed Young, Pastor of Second Baptist Church, said, “When a man is doing his duty exactly like it’s supposed to be done and a nonsensical, capricious act takes place with no rhyme or reason, we wring our hands in frustration, confusion, and doubt. May the whole story be told, leading to a new revival of respect, honor, and admiration for those who carry the torch and wave the flag, as did this, our graduated servant, Officer Jim Boswell.”

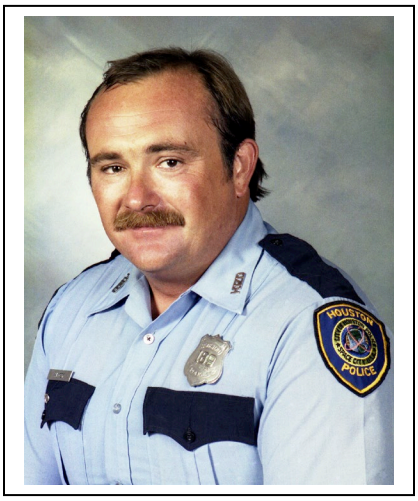
Houston’s Police Honor Guard presented Officer Boswell’s mother with the flag that draped his coffin. His father was given his son’s police hat. Department helicopters flew overhead in the “missing man” formation and the Honor Guard paid homage with a 21 Gun Salute and the playing of *Taps*.

Jim Boswell was survived by Cecil and Martha Boswell, his parents; Michael, Joey, Kenneth, his brothers; and Cherie, his sister. We dedicate this tribute to Officer Boswell for his willingness to put his life on the line for the citizens of Houston.

Source—Houston Police Department Museum Files

# Officer James Bruce Irby 1990

June 27, 1990
Gunfire at 4600 Airline



DOB—5/25/1953, Age 37
Badge—189
Class #57
Final Resting Place—Forest Park Lawndale
City--Houston, TX

Motorcycle Officer James B. Irby was killed in the line of duty on June 27, 1990 at the intersection of Airline and Lyerly. He had been fatally wounded after being shot in the head by Carl Buntion, who was a passenger of the car Officer Irby had just stopped.

Officer Irby observed a traffic violation and pulled the suspects' car. He walked up to the driver and began speaking to him. The passenger, Mr. Carl Buntion, stepped out of the car and fired a shot from his .357 revolver into Irby's chest. Buntion then walked around the car and fired two more shots into the Officer Irby's head as he lay on the ground mortally wounded. The seemingly unprovoked attack on a Houston Police officer was witnessed by several bystanders who chased Buntion down and cornered him until other officers arrived. The officers were able to respond quickly because one witness, Elmore Breaux, ran to the radio on Irby's motorcycle to call for help. Richard Castillo, another witness to the shooting, picked up Irby's gun and held the driver at bay until the reinforcements arrived.

Police Chief Elizabeth Watson praised the citizens by saying, "It is really helpful in times like these to know so many care deeply about the officers who work so hard every day under these adverse circumstances. Without the help of the citizens, we wouldn't have been successful in apprehending the suspect."

Elmore Breaux said, "I feel like any citizen would have done the same thing. When there's not another officer around, if there's something they (citizens) can do to do their part, they need to do it."

There was no apparent motive at the time of the shooting but it was later learned that Carl Buntion had been in prison for a variety of offenses. He had spent over 17 years incarcerated until he was let out on an early release parole program in April of 1990. Further investigation revealed that Carl Buntion's brother, Kenneth, had been shot and killed in a gunfight with police at an apartment complex in northwest Houston back in April of 1971. He had sustained over eight wounds during the incident. It was theorized that Buntion may have been seeking revenge for the killing of his twin brother.

At the time of the shooting, Carl Buntion was violating his parole. One of the violations was failing to show up at a Houston halfway house. The trial was moved to Fredericksburg in October and completed by January, 1991, when it took the jury only 34 minutes to find him guilty of capital murder of a police officer.

Police Officer James B. "Jim" Irby was laid to rest on June 30, 1990. Before the funeral, a small motorcycle detail stood in the dismal rain, comforting each other with words and embraces. There were at least 4,000 citizens and uniformed police officers packed in the Second Baptist Church on Woodway to pay the last respects. Several of the officers commented to the local news media about their friend.

Some quotes that ran in the newspapers were as follows:
Officer Jamerson Berry, one of Irby's fellow patrolmen, said "What I remember the most about Jim is him being a family man."

Officer Mike Cox said of Irby, "He is one of those officers who goes the extra mile. Part of us had been taken away. It really didn't matter to him whether it was another officer or a citizen or what color their skin was or if they were young or old. If he saw someone in need, he was going to help them."

Officer Irby was buried with several mementos of his life. They included a cowboy hat, red bandanna, a Wyoming state emblem pen, and a membership pen from the Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo. His police motorcycle was parked by the casket at the funeral home.

A family friend, Debbie Schlizkus, mentioned that Irby liked to wear a red bandanna around his neck. She said he was given an emblem pen from the Governor of Wyoming, and the Irby family enjoyed the mountains in Wyoming.

Additionally, Jim Irby was on the Calf Scramble Committee of the Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo. The pen he was buried with had belonged to Ms. Debbie Schlizkus.

Officer James B. Irby was survived by his wife, Maura; children, Cody James, 3, and Cally Ayn, 1; father, V.V. Irby; brother, Kelly Irby; and grandmother, Thelma Irby. His duty motorcycle was donated by the family and is permanently displayed at the police museum.

Source—Houston Police Department Museum Files

# Officer John Anthony Salvaggio 1990

November 25, 1990
Vehicular Assault at 8500 Katy Freeway



DOB—7/23/1951, Age 39
Badge—2521
Class #120
Final Resting Place—Forest Park Lawndale
City—Houston, TX

Houston Police Officer John Anthony Salvaggio lost his life while on duty after being struck by a hit-and-run driver. At approximately 2 a.m., November 25, 1990, Officer Salvaggio had stopped a motorist and was issuing a traffic ticket on the Katy Freeway. He had been working radar on the westbound lanes of the freeway when he pulled over Mr. Guy Mayer into the emergency lane.

In signaling Mayer off the freeway, Officer Salvaggio followed police procedure by positioning his vehicle with emergency lights flashing to the far right of the freeway. This allowed the police vehicle to shield both Mayer and Salvaggio from oncoming traffic. As Mayer reached into his glove compartment, he felt his car shudder. Startled, he looked up in time to see Salvaggio being thrown past his car and coming to rest about 20 feet in front of him. The driver of the hit-and-run vehicle left the scene without stopping and rendering aid to the fallen officer.

Mayer was reported to have said, "I thought I was hallucinating. As soon as I felt the impact, I saw his body thrown about 20 feet in front of my car, and then I tried to get a look at the car that did it."

William E. Byrd, the alleged suspect, was arrested at his home and charged with failure to stop and render aid. He had been driving a two-tone gold and cream Ford Granada, which matched the description of the hit-and-run vehicle.

Officer Salvaggio, well-liked by his fellow officers, was described as being proud of his family and proud of being a police officer. He was assigned to the night shift at the Northwest Substation.

One officer remembered when John and his brother ran the Houston Police Department's cafeteria in the basement of the Central Police Station about 15 years ago. "Every day, he'd talk about how badly he wanted to be a cop."

Officer Salvaggio had realized his dream and had been a Houston police officer for seven years.

Lt. Jerry Driver said "He was a real likeable guy. He was the kind of guy that spread a little sunshine where ever he went. He had a laugh and an attitude that made your day."

When Officer Salvaggio was laid to rest, several thousand mourners attended the funeral. More than half were law enforcement officers. They had come from all over the state to pay their respects.

A simple cedar post was dedicated to mark the location of his death on the Katy Freeway. Mike Bradford made and installed the marker. He was also instrumental in the marker for Officer James B. Irby. Mr. Bradford said, "I wanted people to understand that these police officers are out there protecting our lives and property. I just hope there won't be any more of these incidents in the future."

Officer John Salvaggio was survived by his wife, Marybess; daughters, Cathy and Virginia; son, John II; parents, Guy and Catherine Salvaggio; brothers, Charles and Jack; sister, Tammy Martino; and grandmother, Mary Salvaggio.

Source—Houston Police Department Museum Files

# Sgt. Bruno David Soboleski 1991

April 12, 1991
Gunfire at 8500 Katy Freeway



DOB—2/15/1958, Age 33
Badge—2521
Class #112
Final Resting Place—Oak Hill
City—Houston, TX

On April 12, 1991, Houston Police Sergeant Bruno Soboleski was riding in his police vehicle with Ms. Linda Ligon, a grand juror, when he observed Mr. Shelton D. Jones and Mr. Gregory Pickrom standing in the 6600 block of Calhoun. Given the location and time of day, the sergeant suspected they were involved in drug activity and stopped to question and search them.

While Sgt. Soboleski was interrogating the pair, he told the suspects to put their hands on the hood of his police car. As Sgt. Soboleski was searching Pickrom; Jones pulled a 9mm pistol and fired three to four shots at close range into his chest, abdomen, and groin. Soboleski never had a chance to draw his weapon in self-defense.

Jones and Pickrom fled the scene. After Ms. Ligon yelled to Sgt. Soboleski, a third suspect, Mr. Christopher Dwight Coleman, who was crouched between several vehicles, began firing his 9 mm pistol at Sgt. Soboleski. It was undetermined if any of his shots actually struck the officer. Even though she had never operated the radio before, Ms. Ligon used it to call for help.

When back up arrived, Officer R. G. Nassif spoke to Sgt. Soboleski: "First I kept telling him to hang in there—it's going to be okay; help is coming; and he asked me where he was at. He looked at me and said, 'Robin, I don't want to die. I know I'm gonna die.'"

More than 1,500 police and civilians answered a call for blood donations in an attempt to save his life. One thousand-three hundred-thirty units of blood were collected. Sgt. Soboleski endured four operations and put a valiant fight for life before succumbing from multiple-organ failure. He passed away on April 12, 1990.

Shelton Jones was sentenced to death by injection for the shooting death of Soboleski. The decision by the jury took only two and a half hours. In pronouncing the sentence, State District Judge Woody Densen stated, "With cold blood and a black heart, you have committed a dastardly deed on April 7, 1991, in gunning down one of Houston's finest police officers, Bruno Soboleski." He also said, "You gave Bruno Soboleski less compassion and mercy than a dog catcher would give a stray dog on the street."

On April 16, 1991, Sergeant Bruno D. Soboleski was laid to rest. In a eulogy, Police Chaplain Brad Ottosen, Jr. recalled Sgt. Soboleski as a man "who chose to be a . . . person who keeps the peace in Houston." He also said, "When he put on his uniform, he was like a kid in a candy store."

Officer Norris K. Groves said of Sgt. Soboleski, "He was as good a fellow as you will ever want to meet—real easy going, a delightful type of guy, and the kind of person you enjoy being around."

Bruno D. Soboleski was survived by his wife, Darlene Sue; a step-daughter, Stephanie Sisk; daughter, Mallorie; mother, Mary Soboleski; brothers Joseph, Frank, and Leonard Soboleski; sister Mary Crowley.

Source—Houston Police Department Museum Files

# Officer Michael Paul Roman 1994

January 6, 1994
Automobile Accident at North Main / East 28th



DOB - 9/24/1966, Age 27
Badge—5068
Class #146
Final Resting Place—Brookside Memorial
City—Houston, TX

Officer Michael P. Roman was killed in the line of duty during the course of a high-speed vehicular chase on January 6, 1994. Roman, a two-year veteran of the department, was on-duty working a voluntary overtime program on his night off (Wednesday January 5th). Earlier that day, he and his pregnant wife found out that their forthcoming child was a girl. Officer Roman was working the 10 p.m. to 1 a.m. shift, and around 11:45 pm he heard the dispatcher put out a call regarding a high-speed police chase involving Central and North patrol units.

A stolen vehicle was being driven by Jose Lopez (19) and contained three passengers, Hector Martinez (17), Omar Martines (17), and a younger juvenile. While in pursuit of the stolen vehicle, Officer Roman's car collided with a Mitsubishi being driven by a 24-year-old woman who failed to yield the right of way to the emergency police vehicle at the stop sign controlling the intersection. The point of impact was the right front of Officer Roman's Chevrolet Caprice, which then slid into a utility pole. Area residents and paramedics struggled to free Roman from the wreckage. While doing so, the paramedics were unable to obtain a pulse. They quickly transported him to Ben Taub Hospital where he died early Thursday morning at approximately 12:45 a.m.

Mr. Lopez was charged with unauthorized use of a stolen vehicle, resisting and evading arrest and was held on $50,000 bond. Mr. Martinez and Mr. Martines were both charged with resisting and evading arrest. The young juvenile as referred to juvenile authorities.

Funeral services took place at the Second Baptist Church at Voss and Woodway. The memorial service was attended department-wide and concluded with a burial service at Brookside Memorial Park. Mrs. Suelema Roman, wife of Officer Roman, was presented her husband's cap by the Department's Honor Guard.

Officer Roman had nine relatives who were all members of the department. He was survived by Suelema Roman, wife; Mikaela Roman, daughter; Miguel and Mary Roman, parents; Raymond and Steven Roman, brothers; and Pablo and Ignacia Roman, grandparents. Officer Roman will be greatly missed by his friends, family, and fellow officers.

Source—Houston Police Department Museum Files

# Guy Patrick Gaddis 1994

January 31, 1994
Gunfire at 8100 Chimney Rock



DOB—3/21/1969, Age 24
Badge—4539
Class #148
Final Resting Place—South Park Cemetery
City—Pearland, TX

On January 31, 1994, Officer Guy Gaddis was killed in the line of duty while transporting two robbery suspects to jail on the city's southwest side. Gaddis was known by his friends and fellow officers as a compassionate, caring, and considerate young man. As one who truly loved his job, Gaddis didn't envision his job as work, but as an opportunity to help others. Unfortunately, Officer Gaddis's brief career ended as a result of being shot by a handcuffed gunman, Edgar Arias Tamayo, 26. Mr. Tamayo was a suspect, along with another companion, at the scene of an aggravated robbery. Gaddis was responsible for transporting both suspects from the place of arrest to jail for further processing.

Although both suspects were handcuffed, Tamayo was able to conceal a .380-caliber pistol from Officer Gaddis as he was placed in the back seat of his patrol car. While in route to the jail, Tamayo managed to pull his weapon and shoot Officer Gaddis in the back of the head. As Gaddis lost control of the patrol car, it immediately crashed into a nearby house. As the vehicle came to a stop, Tamayo escaped, but was quickly apprehended a short distance away from the crash site. Mr. Tamayo was charged with capital murder and aggravated robbery.

In conducting the funeral services at Second Baptist Church, Rev. David Dixon proclaimed: "We're here today to celebrate the life of this young man who died so bravely serving his community. He gave his life doing exactly what he knew he wanted to do." Officer Gaddis was laid to rest at South Park Cemetery in Pearland, Texas.

He was survived by Rosa Gaddis, his wife, who was pregnant at the time; Edwin and Gayle Gaddis, his parents; Glen Gaddis, brother and wife Angela; Gary Gaddis, brother; and several other family members.

Guy Gaddis's youthful exuberance for police work and his unrelenting dedication to helping citizens will long be remembered by his family, friends, and colleagues.

Source—Houston Police Department Museum Files

# Officer David Michael Healy 1994

November 12, 1994
Automobile Accident at 6600 South Freeway



DOB—7/25/1968, Age 26
Badge—4642
Class #153
Final Resting Place—Cremation
City—Houston, TX

Houston Police Officer David Healy was killed early Saturday, November 12, 1994, when his patrol car went out of control and struck a concrete pillar in southeast Houston.

Houston police investigators said David Healy was returning to the South-Central patrol station after booking a prisoner into the Southeast Command Station Jail when the accident occurred shortly after 2 a.m.

Investigators said witnesses told them Healy's car was traveling inbound at a high rate of speed in the 6000 block of Texas 288 near MacGregor when it struck the pillar. Healy was pronounced dead at Ben Taub Hospital a half-hour later.

Officer Healy was survived by his mother, Mrs. Judy Casey, and her husband Gerry Casey of Thousand Oaks; his father, John Healy of Chicago; his brother, John Bret Healy; and his grandmother, Mrs. Bernice Healy of Chicago; and numerous uncles and cousins. Visitation was held at Earthman Hunter's Creek Chapel from 6 to 8 p.m. on Monday November 14, 1994. A funeral Mass was held the next day at St. Michel Church on 1801 Sage Rd.

Source—Houston Police Department Museum Files

# Officer Dawn Suzanne Erickson 1995

December 24, 1995
Vehicular Assault at 2900 Unity Drive



DOB—1/15/1973, Age 22
Badge—5963
Class #160
Final Resting Place—Forest Park Westheimer
City—Houston, TX

Police Officer Dawn S. Erickson was struck and killed Sunday, December 24, 1995, as she directed traffic for Christmas services at a southwest Houston church.

She had graduated from the Academy in March, and just finished her four-month probation period with the department.

Erickson was working off-duty, controlling traffic in the 2900 block of Hillcroft near the Unity Church of Christianity at 6:45 p.m. when she was struck by a car. The driver of the Honda Accord stated that she only saw a red light flickering in the street. Officer Erickson was struck by the left front of the vehicle and thrown into the vehicle's windshield and then and additional twelve feet into the air and onto the pavement, where she sustained massive head injuries. The officer was transported to Ben Taub General hospital where she was pronounced dead at 8:50 p.m.

Erickson worked out of the South-Central substation. She was survived by her father David Erickson; her mother and step-father, Beth and Scott Green; brother Christopher; sisters Deanna Nixon and husband Brent, and Nicole Erickson; half-sister Stephanie Liming and husband Jim; niece Faith and nephew Colby.

Visitation was held from 8:30 a.m. until 9 p.m. at Earthman oat 12555 South Kirkwood on Wed. December 27, 1995. Funeral Services were conducted at Sugar Creek Baptist Church on 13213 Southwest Freeway at 10 a.m. in Thursday December 28. Burial followed at Forest Park Westheimer Cemetery.

Source—Houston Police Department Museum Files

# Officer Cuong “Tony” Huy Trinh 1997

April 6, 1997
Gunfire at 2700 block of Westerland




DOB—5/18/1971, Age 25
Badge –5891
Class #158
Final Resting Place—Forest Park Westheimer
City—Houston, TX

Officer Tony Trinh was assigned to the Missing Persons Unit of the Juvenile Division. Officer Trinh’s family owned a store in the 2700 block of Westerland and Tony was asked to watch the store while they attended a reunion. A suspect entered the store to rob it fatally shot Officer Trinh in the head. At first, investigators had no idea who shot the officer and theorized that he may have tried to stop a hold up of the store. A $25,000 reward was posted by various organizations to aid the investigation. The slaying hit home to HPD because Tony was not only a fellow police officer, but had a brother on the force as well.

For weeks, the investigation pressed on and it was determined that a suspect had taken some jewelry and was of Asian descent. A break came in the case when Coung Duong Tong was arrested and charged with the murder. In a statement, the suspect said he knew Trinh was a police officer and that was why he shot him. He told investigators he jumped over the counter and pointed his pistol at Officer Trinh. He ordered him to turn over his wallet and at that point he saw it had a badge and ID in it, and he knew he was dealing with a police officer. The suspect said that Trinh then said, “I am a Police Officer. I am a Police Officer. Please do not do this. You will get caught.” The suspect said he decided to shot Officer Trinh because he feared the officer would shoot him as he fled.

The arrest of the suspect had come through investigations conducted by the Asian squad of the Westside Divisional Gang Unit. Chief of Police C. O. Bradford stated in the press conference announcing the suspect’s arrest, “The killing of an officer infringes on what a civilized society is all about.”

When Officer Trinh was laid to rest an outpouring of the community was felt. He had been in the US Navy and later went to the University of Houston. He was only 25 and had been a member of the Houston Police Department for 2 1/2 years. His family had emigrated from Vietnam had settled in Houston. The loss was great and many turned out from all parts of the community. Dr. Trinh Tran, president of the Vietnamese American Community service organization stated, “Our Vietnamese community is so proud… Officer Tony Trinh was one of our best.’”

Officer “Tony” Trinh was survived by his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Nguyen Trinh; a brother, Dat “Rick” Huy Trinh, his fiancée Hong-Le Ha; his uncles Loc Thai and Minh Dao; and his aunt Hoaug Thai. Funeral services were held on April 12, 1997 and interment took place at Forest Park Westheimer Cemetery.

Source—Houston Police Department Museum Files

# Sergeant Kent Dean Kincaid 1998

May 23, 1998
Gunfire at 7600 Plum Creek Forest



DOB—8/17/1957, Age 40
Badge—2251
Class #121
Final Resting Place—
City—Stockton, Kansas

On May 24, 1998, Sergeant Kent Kincaid and his wife were in their family car when shortly after I pm something struck the windshield, thrown by a pickup truck coming from the opposite direction. Some damage occurred to the windshield as a result of the object hitting it. They were on Forest Heights, not far from home. He turned around and began to follow the vehicle. Kincaid followed the truck for about four blocks and watched it turn onto Plum Forest. The pickup pulled into a driveway and Sgt. Kincaid stopped his vehicle. The driver backed out of the driveway and pulled around next to Sgt. Kincaid's car. When this occurred, Sgt. Kincaid got out of his car, approached the occupants of the truck, and identified himself as a police officer. At that moment, someone inside the pickup fired one shot at the officer and struck him in the head.

The vehicle then sped away, leaving Sgt. Kincaid, who was unarmed, bleeding in the street. His wife screamed for help. Residents called for an ambulance. Sgt. Kincaid was rushed to Hermann Hospital but died shortly after reaching the hospital.

Unknown to Sgt. Kincaid, the suspects had randomly shot at his vehicle with a .25-caliber pistol. This trio of young men had just robbed three people before shooting at Kincaid's car. The suspects were apprehended within a couple of days and admitted their involvement in the both the shooting and the robberies. Anthony Hayes, 19, said he shot Sgt. Kincaid after he identified himself as a police officer. Hayes was charged with capital murder and two counts of aggravated robbery. The two other juveniles in the car were charged with two counts of aggravated robbery.

Sgt. Kent D. Kincaid was a 13-year veteran of the Houston Police Department. He was assigned to the night shift at the Westside Command Station. HPD Chaplain Davis said at the eulogy that Kincaid was, "a man of great valor and great courage." He had earned a commendation for bravery and was known as fine officer. Chief of Police C. O. Bradford recalled Sgt. Kincaid, whom he had worked with some ten years before. He said, "He was a kind of person and a real gentleman. I feel a piece of me taken away."

Sgt. Kent D. Kincaid was born on August 17, 1957 in Phillipsburg, Kansas. He joined the Houston Police Department in 1984. He was survived by his wife; Nancy, two daughters, Jena, 10, and Courtney, 6; his mother Myrna; and his sister, Kathy Conway.

Source—Houston Police Department Museum Files

# Officer Troy Alan Blando 1999

May 19, 1999
Gunfire at 6800 S. W. Fwy




DOB—7/31/1959, Age 39
Badge—2336
Class #87
Final Resting Place—Woodlawn
City—Houston, TX

Officer Troy Blando was shot and killed while investigating auto thefts. He was checking automobiles for stolen license plates outside of a motel. He exited his vehicle and approached a suspect, who opened fire. During the exchange of gunfire, Officer Blando was struck in the chest. He was able to make it back to his vehicle and call for backup. The officer died while being transported to a local hospital.

Responding officers arrested the suspect near the scene. He was convicted of murder and executed May 15, 2013.

Officer Blando had been with the agency for 19 years and is survived by his wife and son.

Source - ODMP

# Officer Jerry Keith Stowe 2000



September 20, 2000
Assault at 1605 Robin

DOB—2/1/1953, Age 47
Badge—4501
Class #125
Final Resting Place—BrooksideCemetery
City—Houston, TX

Police Officer Keith Stowe died of injuries sustained 14 years earlier when he was assaulted and severely beaten over the back and abdomen with a 2x4 and a piece of rebar. The assault took place when Officer Stowe, along with four other officers, responded to a domestic disturbance.

Following the incident, Officer Stowe underwent several surgeries, including the removal of his spleen. The surgeries and medical complications continued until he succumbed to the injuries.

Officer Stowe was survived by his wife, child, parents, twin brother, and two sisters.

Source - ODMP

# Officer Dennis Edward Holmes 2001

January 10, 2001
Heart Attack at 6400 Burgeois



DOB—5/1/1955, Age 45
Badge—717
Class #101
Final Resting Place—Calvary Hill Cemetery
City—Houston, TX

Officer Dennis Holmes suffered a fatal heart attack while making an arrest during an undercover operation on Bourgeois Street.

He was working with other officers to deliver counterfeit money to a suspect and was in the process of arresting the man when he collapsed. Officers performed CPR until paramedics arrived. He was transported to a local hospital where he was pronounced dead.

Officer Holmes had served with the Houston Police Department for 19 years. He was survived by his wife and two daughters.

Source - ODMP

# Officer Alberto Vasquez 2001

May 22, 2001
Gunfire at 6200 Marinette




DOB—4/16/1969, Age 32
Badge—5437
Class #155
Final Resting Place—Earthman Resthaven
City—Houston, TX

Officer Albert Vasquez was shot and killed while patrolling a housing complex during an off-duty security assignment at approximately 22:30 hours.

He and three other officers had just arrested five suspects on narcotics violations and were walking them to the security office. Three of the suspects had been handcuffed and the remaining two were handcuffed together. One of those two suspects was using a crutch as the result of an injury to his leg.

The three officers and three handcuffed suspects had walked into the security office when they heard gun shots from outside. One of the officers immediately exited the office and observed the suspect with the crutch shooting Officer Vasquez. The suspect then opened fire on the other officer, striking him in the chest. Despite being critically wounded, the officer was able to return fire and struck the suspect in the leg.

The suspect was taken into custody and charged with capital murder and attempted capital murder. He was sentenced to life in prison on October 23, 2002, after the jury became deadlocked on whether or not to sentence him to death.

Officer Vasquez had served with the Houston Police Department for seven years, and was survived by his wife, two sons, ages 10 months and 6 years; and his parents.

Source—ODMP

# Officer Keith Alan Dees 2002

March 7, 2002
Motorcycle Accident at100 Gulf Freeway



DOB—10/19/1956, Age 45
Badge—3807
Class #107
Final Resting Place—Forest Park Westheimer
City—Houston, TX

Officer Keith Dees was killed in a motorcycle accident at approximately 21:00 hours while on patrol.

He was driving on I-45 when his motorcycle struck the back of a car that was stopped in the middle lane of the highway. He was transported to a local hospital where he succumbed to his injuries.

Officer Dees had served with the Houston Police Department for 20 years. He was survived by his wife, daughter, and two sons.

Source - ODMP

# Officer Charles “Charlie” Roy Clark 2003

April 3, 2003
Gunfire at 5700 South Loop East



DOB—10/24/1957, Age 45
Badge—4018
Class #112
Final Resting Place—Cremation
City—Houston, TX

Police Officer Charles Clark was shot and killed while responding to a silent alarm at a check cashing store on South Loop East.

Officer Clark arrived less than four minutes after the alarm button was pushed. As he entered the store, the suspects opened fire, striking him in the shoulder. He returned fire but his service weapon jammed after firing the first shot.

As he called for assistance one of the men shot him in the head. The suspects then executed the female store clerk before fleeing. The three men were apprehended the following day. The shooter of the clerk was sentenced to death and another defendant was convicted of related charges. In 2013, the subject who murdered Officer Clark was granted a new trial and then released on a technicality.

Officer Clark was one day shy of his 20th anniversary with the Houston Police Department and was assigned to the Southeast Patrol Division. He was survived by his wife, mother, brother, and two sisters.

Source - ODMP

# Officer Frank Manuel Cantu Jr. 2004

March 26, 2004
Automobile Accident at Dunlavy /West Gray



DOB—5/12/1961, Age 42
Badge—790
Class #114
Final Resting Place—Cremation
City—Houston, TX

Officer Frank Cantu was killed when his patrol car was struck by a drunk driver at the intersection of Dunlavy and West Gray Streets at 02:20 hours.

A drunk driver entered the intersection at a high rate of speed and struck the patrol car on the rear and left quarter panel, causing it to go airborne and land 40 feet away. Officer Cantu was extricated from his vehicle and transported to Memorial Hermann Hospital where he died a short time later.

The drunk driver refused to take a sobriety test and was charged with intoxicated manslaughter.

Officer Cantu had served with the Houston Police Department for 19 years. He was survived by his mother, father, brother, and sister.

Source - ODMP

# Officer Reuben Becerra DeLeon 2005

October 26, 2005
Gunfire at 9707 South Gessner



DOB—7/4/1974, Age 31
Badge—6969
Class #175
Final Resting Place—Greenlawn Memorial Cemetery
City—Houston, TX

Officer DeLeon was sworn in as an HPD officer in August of 1999 and assigned to the Fondren Patrol Division.

He and another officer were off duty at an apartment reserved for officers who worked security for the complex. Officers on patrol in the area also used the apartment to complete paperwork. Someone knocked on the door. When Officer DeLeon opened it, he was shot several times and killed. The other off-duty officer and witnesses saw two men fleeing the scene.

Two suspects were later arrested. Investigators determined that they were gang members participating in a gang initiation, and knew that police officers used the apartment.

The suspect who shot Officer DeLeon was convicted of capital murder and sentenced to life in prison.

Officer DeLeon was survived by his wife and three children. He was buried in the Greenlawn Memorial Cemetery in Rosenberg in Fort Bend County.

Source - ODMP

# Officer Rodney Joseph Johnson 2006

September 21, 2006
Gunfire at 9300 Randolph



DOB—10/24/1965, Age 40
Badge—5913
Class #159
Final Resting Place—Earthman Resthaven
City—Houston, TX

Officer Johnson was sworn in as an officer in December of 1994 as a member of HPD Academy Class #159.

He was shot and killed after taking an illegal alien into custody during a traffic stop.

Officer Johnson had stopped a large white pickup truck occupied by a man and woman on Randolph at Braniff, just south of Hobby Airport, at about 5:30 pm. He placed the male driver under arrest after he was unable to produce a driver's license. After handcuffing the male, he placed him in the backseat of the patrol car and then returned to the driver's seat. The subject, while handcuffed and sitting in the backseat of the patrol car was able to move his hands to his front, retrieve a concealed handgun, and shot Officer Johnson in the back of the head four times. Despite being fatally wounded, Officer Johnson was able to push an emergency button, alerting dispatch to the incident.

When other officers arrived, the male was still handcuffed and sitting in the patrol car, and the weapon was recovered. The woman who was in the vehicle during the traffic stop had fled but was also located and taken into custody.

The suspect was taken to HPD Headquarters at 1200 Travis where he provided a full confession.

Officer Johnson was taken to Ben Taub Hospital, where he was pronounced dead.

The suspect was an illegal alien who had been deported in 1999, but illegally re-entered the United States. On May 8, 2008, he was convicted of capital murder and sentenced to life. In addition, a federal grand jury indicted the owner of a landscaping firm who hired the suspect, accusing him of harboring an illegal alien.

Officer Johnson was a 12-year member of the Houston Police Department and had previously served as a corrections officer with the Texas Department of Criminal Justice, and as a military policeman in the US Army. He was survived by his wife, also a Houston officer, their three daughters, two sons, and his mother.

Source—ODMP and Homicide News Release

# Officer Gary Allen Gryder 2008

June 29, 2008
Vehicular assault at Katy Freeway service road /State Hwy 6



DOB— 3/23/1961 , Age 47
Badge—4525
Class #126
Final Resting Place—Klein Cemetery
City—Tomball TX

Officers Gryder, Freddy Joe Pyland and Sallee were working the Katy Freeway Project overtime program at the intersection of the Katy Freeway service road and State Highway 6, where they had barricades blocking all the eastbound traffic on the south service road. According to witnesses, Hung Truong was driving a white Toyota Camry, traveling eastbound on the service road at a high rate of speed. Truong's vehicle crashed through the barricades where the officers stood near a patrol car. Officer Sallee managed to jump out of the path of the vehicle, but Officers Gryder and Pyland had no time to react and were struck by Truong's vehicle. The driver continued until striking a brick wall, where he was taken into custody.

Pyland suffered a broken leg, and was transported to Memorial Hermann Hospital, but Gryder was killed.

Officer Gary A. Gryder was sworn in as an officer in May of 1985, as a member of HPD Academy Class #126. He was assigned to the Southeast Division's Parole Offender Unit at the time of the incident. Officer Freddy Joe Pyland, sworn in in December 1980, was assigned to the Neighborhood Protection Corps. Officer Sallee was assigned to the Traffic Division.

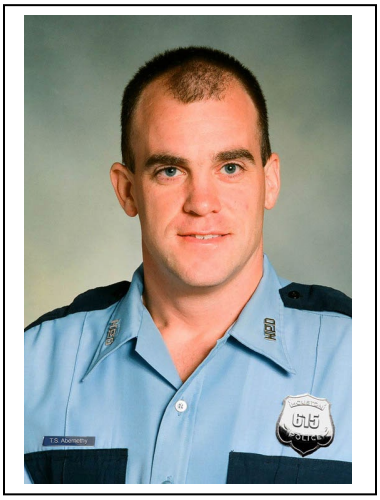
Truong, charged with manslaughter, was found not guilty by reason of insanity, and committed to the Rusk State Mental Hospital. On May 2, 2016, a Harris County judge denied his release from the hospital where he would have to remain for at least one more year.

Officer Gryder had served with the Houston Police Department for 23 years. He was survived by his wife, son, step-daughter, two grandchildren, parents, and two sisters.

Source—ODMP and Houston Police News Release

# Officer Timothy Scott Abernethy 2008

December 7, 2008
Gunfire at 5801 West Sunforest



DOB—4/25/1965, Age 43
Badge—615
Class #170
Final Resting Place—
City—Houston, TX

Officer Abernethy conducted a traffic stop on the vehicle of Mabry Joseph Landor, III (b/m, DOB: 8-31-80) in the parking lot of the Luxor Park Apartments at 5801 West Sunforest. Landor ran from Abernethy and into the apartment complex. The officer had lost sight of the man as he chased him around one of the apartment buildings. After going around the corner, Landor hid behind a gate and shot Abernethy twice in the torso, then walked around the officer and shot him in the head.

The officer was transported to Memorial Hermann Hospital where he succumbed to his wounds a short time later.

Landor was located within an hour of the shooting and arrested by deputies from the Harris County Sheriff's Department in the area of his residence. They brought him back to the scene where he was identified. Landor made an admission of his involvement in Officer Abernethy's murder. He was charged with capital murder of a police officer in the 209th State District Court and found guilty on April 6, 2010. Landor was sentenced to death.

Officer Abernethy had served with the Houston Police Department for 11 years. He was survived by his wife, son, daughter, parents, and siblings.

Source—ODMP and Houston Police News release

# Officer Henry Canales 2009

June 23, 2009
Gunfire - 6700 block of Hillcroft about 9:35 p.m.



DOB—11/14/1966, Age 43
Badge—5653
Class # 152
Final Resting Place –Grandview Memorial Park
City--Pasadena, TX
.Military Veteran

Senior Police Officer Henry Canales, sworn in as an officer in July 1993, was assigned to the Auto Theft Division.

HPD Auto Theft and Burglary and Theft Divisions were conducting a joint undercover operation to arrest individuals in a "theft by receiving" investigation in the 6700 block of Hillcroft. Officer Canales, assigned as an undercover officer, negotiated a deal with the suspects for stolen property.

He and another officer were meeting with a group of suspects in a Walgreens parking lot. As money was exchanged, one of the suspects opened fire, fatally wounding Officer Canales. Another officer returned fire, killing the suspect. The three other suspects fled but were apprehended a short time later. Charges were filed against two adult suspects and one juvenile suspect.

Officer Canales had served with the Houston Police Department for 16 years. He was survived by a wife, son, and daughter.

Source - ODMP and Houston Police News Release

# Officer Eydelman Mani 2010

May 19, 2010
Automobile Accident at 6100 North Freeway



DOB—Unknown, Age 30
Badge—7492
Class #182
Final Resting Place—Grand View Cemetery
City--Houston, TX

Officer Mani, assigned to the North Patrol Division, was sworn in as an officer in May 2003 after graduating from Cadet Class #182.

He was killed in an automobile accident while responding to a call at approximately 11:30 p.m. He was traveling on the North Freeway access road, near Troy Road, when his patrol car struck a guardrail and overturned.

Rescue crews extricated him from the vehicle and transported him to Memorial Hermann Hospital, where he succumbed to his injuries in the early morning of May 19.

Officer Mani had served with the Houston Police Department for seven years. He was survived by his wife and 3-year-old son.

Source—ODMP and Houston Police News Release

# Officer Kevin Scott Will 2011

May 29, 2011
Vehicular Assault at 101 North Loop East (North Interstate Highway 610 East)



DOB— 11/10/1973, Age 37
Badge—7597
Class # 205
Final Resting Place—Hollywood Cemetery
City—Houston, TX

Police Officer Kevin Will was struck and killed by a drunk driver as he investigated a hit-and-run accident involving a motorcyclist on the Loop 610 North, near Yale Street, at approximately 3:15 a.m.

Officer Will was interviewing a witness to the motorcycle accident when the drunk driver drove around barriers and emergency vehicles that were blocking the closed freeway. Seeing the vehicle approach, Officer Will warned the witness to jump out of the way. The citizen was able to jump to safety moments before Officer Will was struck and killed.

The driver was taken into custody at the scene and was charged with intoxicated manslaughter for Officer Will's death. It was later discovered that the suspect had entered and was living in the United States illegally. He pleaded guilty to intoxicated manslaughter and on June 8, 2012, was sentenced to 55 years in prison.

Officer Will, who was sworn in as an officer in Sept. 2009, was assigned to the Vehicular Crimes Division. He had served with the Houston Police Department for almost two years. He was survived by his pregnant wife, two children, parents, and brother.

Source—ODMP and Houston Police News Release

# Officer Richard Keith Martin 2015

May 18, 2015
Vehicular assault at 900 North Kirkwood about 3 a.m.



DOB –7/2/1967, Age 47
Badge—5413
Class #209
Final Resting Place—Klein Memorial Park
City—Houston, TX

Officers from the Houston Police Department were in pursuit of a stolen U-Haul on the Northwest Freeway in North Houston, driven by Jeffrey Ryan Conlin. The van continued on to the Katy Freeway, where it exited onto the feeder at Highway 6. Conlin fired several shots at officers during the pursuit before bailing out, carjacking a brown Toyota from a 58-year-old woman, and fleeing again. The victim was transported to a nearby hospital with minor injuries.

Conlin fled eastbound and turned south onto Kirkwood. Officer Martin was in the area and had gotten out to deploy spike strips when Conlin intentionally struck him with the stolen vehicle.

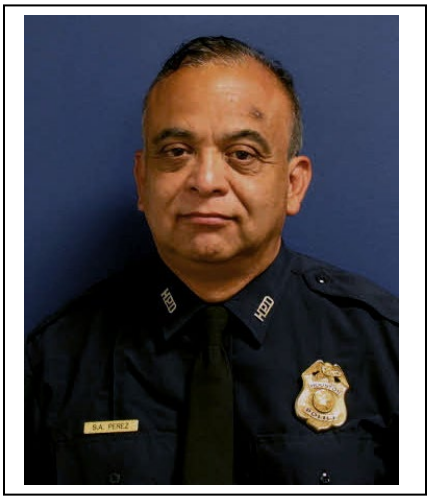
The vehicle continued to flee until stopping on the I-45 North Freeway. The subject attempted to commit suicide by shooting himself as officers initiated a felony traffic stop. Conlin was transported to a local hospital where he later died.

Officer Martin was assigned to the Westside Patrol Division. He was sworn in as an officer in November 2010, and had served with the Houston Police Department for four years. Officer Martin left behind a 22-year-old daughter and an 11-year-old son.

Source—ODMP and Houston Police News Release

# Sergeant Steve Albert Perez 2017

August 29, 2017
Drowning at Hardy Tollway and Beltway 8



DOB—8/31/1956, Age 60
Badge— Sgt
Class # 109
Final Resting Place—Wanette Cemetery
City—Houston, TX
Military Veteran—Army

Sergeant Steve Perez drowned after his patrol car was caught in floodwaters in the aftermath of Hurricane Harvey.

Sergeant Perez left home at approximately 4:00 a.m. in an attempt to report to his duty station in the downtown area but was unable to reach it due to impassable roads caused by extreme flooding. He spent more than two hours trying to find a route, but when he could not, he advised dispatch that he would follow department protocol and report to the nearest station in Kingwood.

As he attempted to reach Kingwood, his patrol car was washed away in high water in the area of Hardy Tollway and Beltway 8. His body was recovered by members of Houston Police Department Dive Team on August 29th, 2017.

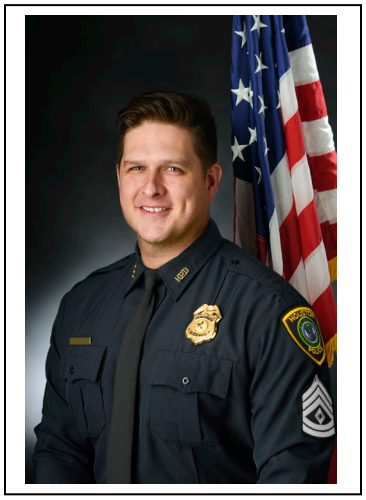
Sergeant Perez had served with the Houston Police Department for 34 years and was just days shy of his 61st birthday. He was a US Army veteran. Perez was survived by his wife, two adult children, and father-in-law.

Sergeant Perez was a graduate of the 210th Session of the FBI National Academy.

Source—ODMP

# Sgt. Christopher Charles Lewis Brewster 2019

December 7, 2019
Gunfire at 7400 Avenue L about 5:45 p.m.



DOB—8/14/1987, Age 32
Badge—Sgt
Class # 209
Final Resting Place—South Park Cemetery
City—Pearland, TX

Sergeant Christopher Brewster was shot and killed while responding to a domestic assault at about 6:00 pm. At approximately 5:45 p.m., HPD patrol officers were dispatched to a disturbance with a weapon call at 7413 Avenue I. A woman had called 911 and reported that her boyfriend, Arturo Solis, had assaulted her and that he was armed with two firearms. When officers arrived at the scene, both subjects had already left. Sergeant Brewster checked the area when he saw the couple walking in the 7400 block of Avenue L.

Sergeant Brewster exited his patrol vehicle and, as he walked toward the female, she pointed in the direction of Solis. As Brewster turned toward him, Solis immediately fired a weapon, striking the sergeant multiple times. Despite being struck in the chest above his vest, he was able to give dispatchers and other officers a description of his wounds and the subject's direction of travel.

The suspect fled the scene and responding officers immediately began first aid on Sergeant Brewster and established a perimeter. Solis was located after an extensive search and arrested without further incident. Sergeant Brewster was transported to Memorial Hermann Hospital, where he succumbed to his wounds.

Solis was subsequently charged with capital murder. In December 2021, he was sentenced to life in prison without parole.

Sergeant Brewster was sworn in as an HPD officer in November 2010, and was assigned to the Eastside Patrol Division. He had served with the Houston Police Department for nine years. He was survived by his wife, parents, and three sisters.

Source—ODMP and Houston Police News Release

# Tactical Officer Jason Michael Knox 2020

May 2, 2020
Aircraft Accident at 17050 Imperial Valley Drive about 2:05 a.m



DOB—11/18/1984, Age 35
Badge—2374
Class #212
Final Resting Place—Cremated
City—Houston, TX

HPD helicopter 8375F, operated by pilot Chase Cormier and Tactical Flight Officer Jason Knox, was flying over an apartment complex at the above address and checking the nearby bayou, assisting North Belt Patrol Division officers on a possible drowning call. After clearing from that call, the helicopter had an undetermined issue and crashed into the apartment complex leasing office, landing on the pilot's side.

HPD officers and Houston Fire Department paramedics quickly arrived to assist. Responding fire department units extricated Officer Knox and the pilot from the wreckage. Both officers were transported to Memorial Hermann hospital. Officer Knox suffered fatal injuries in the crash and the pilot suffered severe injuries.

Officer Knox was sworn in as an HPD officer in June 2012, working Midwest and Public Affairs before being assigned to the Air & Marine Division. He had served with the Houston Police Department for eight years. He was survived by his wife Keira, two children Cooper and Eliza, and his parents, Mrs. Helen and Mr. Mike Knox, City of Houston Councilmember.

Source—ODMP and Houston Police News Release

# Sergeant Harold Lloyd Preston 2020

December 20, 2020
Gunfire at 2626 Holly Hall



DOB—6/2/1955, Age 65
Badge— Sgt.
Class # 86
Final Resting Place—Memory Lawn
City—Houston, TX

Around 8:30 a.m., police were called to an apartment complex in the 2600 block of Holly Hall Street by a woman who had been locked out of her apartment by her estranged husband and was attempting to retrieve belongings. Other officers had been to the apartment two additional times in the preceding days for domestic disturbance calls. Sergeant Preston and the other officer spoke to the woman for approximately an hour before her 14-year-old son managed to unlock the apartment door and encountered his father holding a gun.

The man then opened fire, striking Sergeant Preston numerous times in the head and upper body. The other officer and the juvenile were also wounded.

Sergeant H. Preston, who discharged his firearm, was transported to Memorial Hermann-Texas Medical Center where he was pronounced deceased.

The suspect surrendered approximately one hour later.

Sergeant Preston was sworn in as an officer in August 1979 and assigned to the Southwest Patrol Division. He had served with the Houston Police Department for 41 years and was scheduled to retire weeks before his murder. He was survived by his elderly parents, whom he cared for, and his fiancée.

Source—ODMP and Houston Police News Release

# Sergeant Sean Sebastian Rios 2020

November 9, 2020
Gunfire at 7900 block of the North Freeway (Interstate Highway 45 North) service road about 1:30 p.m.



DOB—10/9/1973 , Age 47
Badge— Sgt
Class #165
Final Resting Place—North Athens
City—Houston, TX
Military Veteran—Marine

Sergeant Sean Rios encountered two vehicles and an armed man on the roadway in the 7700 block of North Freeway at about 1:30 p.m. while en route to start his shift at George Bush Intercontinental Airport. He became engaged in a shootout with one driver and was fatally wounded. The subjects in both vehicles fled the scene. Robert Soliz, the man suspected of shooting Sergeant Rios was arrested the following day. The second subject remains at large.

Patrol officers were dispatched to a shooting in-progress call to the northbound service road at the above address. Officers arrived and found a Kia Forte abandoned on nearby Stuebner Airline and a male with a gunshot wound inside a nearby Taj Palace Motel. Witnesses came forward and claimed that two Hispanic males had a confrontation with the male in the Kia Forte. Witnesses told officers the driver of the Kia and the driver of the Mercedes fired shots at each other. The witnesses claimed one of the Hispanic males fled the scene in a light blue Mercedes, the other male in a black Chevrolet truck.

It was determined the wounded male had walked to a nearby hotel at 7766 North Freeway where he was pronounced deceased. Upon further investigation, it was discovered the deceased male was Houston Police Department Sergeant, Sean Rios.

Sergeant Rios was sworn in as an HPD officer in February 1996 and assigned to the Airport Division. He was a US Marine Corps veteran and had served with the Houston Police Department for 25 years. Rios was survived by four children, parents, brother, and two cousins who also serve with the Houston Police Department.

Source—ODMP and Houston Police News Release

# Senior Police Officer Ernest Leal Jr 2020

November 20, 2020
COVID-19 at



DOB—10/9/1961, Age 60
Badge— 4545
Class #120
Final Resting Place— Memory Lawn Memorial Park, Houston, TX

Senior Police Officer Ernest Leal died as the result of complications after contracting COVID-19 while on duty.

Officer Leal had served with the Houston Police Department for 36 years and was assigned to the North Patrol Division. He was survived by his wife, four children, mother, and three siblings.

Beginning in early 2020, due to the requirements of their job, thousands of law enforcement officers and other first responders throughout the United States contracted COVID-19 during the worldwide pandemic. Hundreds of law enforcement officers died from medical complications as a result of contracting the virus while remaining on duty and interacting with the community.

Source—ODMP

# Senior Police Officer William “Bill” Jeffrey  2021

September 20, 2021
Gunfire at 5350 Aeropark



DOB—7/1/1967, Age 54
Badge—3064
Class #140
Final Resting Place –
City—Houston, TX
Military Veteran—United States Navy

On September 20, 2021, at approximately 0730 hours, Houston Police Officers assigned to the Major Offenders Division were executing an arrest warrant for suspect Deon Ledet at an apartment in the Timber Ridge Apartment complex, located at 5350 Aeropark Drive. Six members of the Major Offenders Division set up a perimeter around the apartment and knocked on the door.

A female answered the door and advised officers that the suspect was inside the apartment. Officers standing outside the (open) front door, called for Ledet to come out. Using a Glock that had been illegally converted to be fully automatic, he began shooting at the officers from inside the apartment, striking Officer Jeffrey and Sergeant Michael Vance. Other officers returned fire, shooting the suspect multiple times. Ledet succumbed to his injuries on scene.

Officer Jeffrey, who suffered several gunshot wounds, was flown by Life flight to Memorial Hermann and died of his injuries. Sergeant Vance, also hit more than once, required surgery and survived.

The suspect had two outstanding drug-related warrants at the time of this incident and had a bond forfeiture on January 8, 2021. The female sustained injuries from gunfire and two children inside the residence were uninjured.

Officer Jeffrey was a U.S Navy veteran and had served with the Houston Police Department for 30 years. He is survived by his wife Susanne and daughter Lacie. His wife had recently retired from the Houston Police Department.

Source—ODMP and Houston Police News Release

# Senior Police Officer John D. Wilbanks 2021

October 13, 2021
COVID-19 at

DOB –7/31/1968, Age 53
Badge—
Class #L4-94
Final Resting Place –
City—Houston, TX



Senior Police Officer John D. Wilbanks died as the result of complications after contracting COVID-19 while on duty.

He started his law enforcement career with the Baytown Police Department on April 1, 1991. He joined the Houston Police Department on April 25, 1994, Academy Class # L494. During his tenure with the Department he worked at Southeast, Southwest, Clear Lake, Traffic Enforcement, Vehicular Crimes, Tactical Operations and Air and Marine Division.

Beginning in early 2020, due to the requirements of their job, thousands of law enforcement officers and other first responders throughout the United States contracted COVID-19 during the worldwide pandemic. Hundreds of law enforcement officers died from medical complications as a result of contracting the virus while remaining on duty and interacting with the community.