Chief Joseph Barry “Joe” Rieskamp (1948-2026)

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Joe was born March 7, 1948 to Harold and Irene (Fritch) Rieskamp.

On March 23, 1970 Joe was appointed Patrolman of the Covington Police Department by the Covington Board of Commissioners. During his tenure, he served as a Canine Officer. By 1978, he was promoted to Sergeant. In November 1984 he was promoted to Lieutenant. By May 1987, he had been promoted to Captain and

served as the Crime Bureau Commander and Shift Commander. He was appointed Police Chief on September 6, 1989. Chief Rieskamp retired December 31, 1994 with 24 years of service.

Chief Rieskamp also served as a paramedic, firefighter, and deputy coroner.

Chief Rieskamp died on November 2, 2026 at the age of 78.

Chief Rieskamp is survived by his wife of 42 years, Ethelda Reynolds (Breyley) Rieskamp; children, Yvonne Leslie (Chris), and Bryson Joseph (Julie); five grandchildren; and brother, Jim Rieskamp.

A Celebration of Joe’s Life will take place on Thursday, December 3, 2026 from 5 to 8 p.m. at the Independence Senior Center at 2001 Jackwoods Parkway in Independence.

Memorials are suggested to Retired Covington Police Chief Joseph B. Rieskamp c/o F.O.P. Lodge #1, 516 East 18th Street, Covington, KY 41014.© 2026 – All rights reserved to LT Stephen R. Kramer RET and the Greater Cincinnati Police Museum

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