Patrolman Joseph William Duffy, Sr. | Cincinnati Police Division

Badge: 614
Age: 49
Served: 17¼ years
March 15, 1883 to December 29, 1932

OFFICER

Joe was born March 15, 1883 to James T. and Bridget (Cosgrove) Duffy. James was born in Ireland and immigrated to the United States in 1870. Bridget was also Irish, born in Canada, and immigrated to the United States in 1860. Within three years of immigrating, James married Bridget and had their first child of nine; of which, Joe was the middle child.

Joe attended Warsaw Public School for six years. He then took a

job as a Clerk at Cincinnati Hospital, probably from 1902 to 1907.

Joe joined the Cincinnati Police Department as a Patrol Wagon Driver on January 9, 1908.

Also, during 1908, October 21st, he married Ella Wenner. During September 1909, they had their first and only child, a daughter. Ella contracted tuberculosis and by March 1916, she passed away at age 34.

During 1915, Patrol Wagon Driver Duffy was promoted to Patrolman, but still assigned to the Patrol Service, and assigned to Patrol 5 (Naeher Alley behind 1024 York Street).

On November 20, 1916, Patrolman Duffy remarried, this time to Paulina Maria Mahatcke, and began to rebuild his family with her. By the end of 1932, he had ten more children.

Also, by the end of 1932, Patrolman Duffy had been assigned to Patrols 1, 3, 5, and 9. Though of ordinary stature, he had built a reputation of being able to manage the unruliest prisoners. During 1932, he served at Patrol 3 at 316 George Street.

INCIDENT

During Christmas morning, the men of Patrol 3 were expecting visitors. Patrolman Duffy was on the 2nd floor cleaning windows when he fell to the sidewalk. Such a fall is generally not fatal, but along with fractured ribs, he also fractured his skull. He was taken to the General Hospital by Patrol 3 at 10:20 a.m.

DEATH

Patrolman Duffy died on December 29, 1932, at 8:25 p.m.

He was survived by his wife of 16 years, Paulina Duffy; eleven children, including, Mrs. Myra L. (Ora C.) Davis, Joseph W. Duffy, Jr. (13), Marjorie R. Duffy (12), Stanley N. Duffy (11), Mary K. Duffy (9), Dorothy P. Duffy (8), James P. Duffy (4), Ruth J. Duffy (3), Robert E. Duffy (2), and Norman (10 months); and granddaughter, Betty Davis (1). A funeral was held from Busse and Borgeman Funeral Home on Central Parkway on January 2, 1932. A requiem high mass was celebrated at St. Charles Borromeo Church on January 2, 1932. He was buried in St. Mary's Cemetery. Paulina joined him ten years later in 1942.

EPILOGUE

Stanley N. Duffy, after service in the United States Air Force, joined the Hamilton County Sheriff's Office as a Deputy in the early 1950s. During the 1970s, he worked in the Regional Enforcement of Narcotics Unit (RENU) and retired in the early 1980s.

If you know of any information, archives, artifacts, or images regarding this officer or incident, please contact the Greater Cincinnati Police Museum at Memorial@Police-Museum.org.

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