

# Police Officer Dale R. Derbyshire P-453 (1928-2017)

Dale was born on March 28, 1928, the only child born to Alfred, a railroad crew dispatcher, and Mabel Derbyshire, of Delta Avenue. He attended Withrow and Central Vocational High Schools, graduating in 1948.

After high school, Dale went to work with the American Optical Company as a lens edger and benchman from 1948 to 1950.

Dale also served in Company B, 303<sup>rd</sup> Reserve Military Battalion, in Fort Thomas. By 1952 he was a Corporal.



Dale joined the Cincinnati Police Division as a Police Recruit on December 15, 1950. On March 15, 1951, he was promoted to Patrolman, issued Badge Number 453, and assigned as a Motorcycle Patrolman at Highway Safety Bureau.

On January 28, 1952, during a pursuit, Motor Patrolman Derbyshire was critically injured in a motorcycle crash where he sustained a fractured skull, crushed chest, broken shoulder and arm, and various cuts and contusions. He was unconscious for days. But, within two weeks, doctors were extolling his “youth and rugged constitution” for surviving injuries which usually would be fatal. He was unable to return to work for months.

On September 28, 1953, he was grazed on the leg by a bullet fired by the notorious hold-up man, Marshall Burgher. In the shootout, Burgher was struck twice and fatally. Patrolman Derbyshire was commended by Police Chief Schrotel and the Federal Bureau of Investigation. In 1954, he apprehended another bank robber, Bernard Farmer, and was commended again by the Chief.

After his 4<sup>th</sup> motorcycle crash, on March 11, 1956, he was reassigned to a traffic car. On January 6, 1974, after 21 years during traffic duty, he transferred to District 6 (3295 Erie Avenue). Police Officer Derbyshire retired July 5, 1980 with almost 30 years of service and 23 letters of appreciation and/or commendation. His motorcycle uniform hangs at the Greater Cincinnati Police Museum.

District 2 Police Officers were dispatched to Patrolman Derbyshire’s residence on July 30, 2017 for an unresponsive person and he was found deceased at the age of 89. At the time of his death, he was the 19<sup>th</sup> oldest retired Cincinnati police officer and oldest motorcycle officer.

Officer Derbyshire is survived by his beloved friend, Cosetta “Sue” Dowdell.

Visitation will be held from 12 to 2 p.m. on Monday, August 7, 2017 at T. P. White Funeral Home at 2050 Beechmont Avenue. FOP Services will be held at 1:30 p.m. Funeral Services will be held at 2 p.m.

Memorials may be made to the Greater Cincinnati Police Museum, 308 Reading Road, Cincinnati, OH 45202.