

Specialist Walter Peter Dewald PS-23 (1927-2017)

Walt was born July 3, 1927 in Cincinnati to first generation immigrants Peter and Mildred (Jochum) Dewald, living at 1118 York Street. By 1940, Peter moved his family of 5 to 512 Klotter Avenue. During 1944, Walt went to work at the Uffelman Baking Company on York Street.

Immediately after his 18th birthday, during World War II, Walt joined the U.S. Merchant Marines and served on the United States Army Troop Ship Thomas H. Barry (formerly the ocean liner SS Orient). After an accidental collision with a fishing trawler, the ship continued to France, picked up its complement of soldiers, and returned to New York on Walt's final voyage December 16, 1945. When the NATO-involved Greece Civil War erupted during 1946, Walt enlisted in the United States Army out of Fort Hays in Columbus "for the duration of the war or emergency plus six months." After two months basic and Medical Corpsman training, he was shipped to Yokohama, Japan and served overseas for more than a year. Technical Sergeant 4/c Dewald was honorably discharged September 17, 1947 and went back to the Uffelman Baking Company.



Walt joined the Cincinnati Police Division as a Police Recruit on June 1, 1950. He was promoted to Patrolman on September 1, issued Badge 97, and assigned to District 4 (754 W. 5th Street). One week later, his name landed in the newspaper for the first of numerous times having arrested three youths and clearing several larceny cases. He made several notable arrests within his first year. With only a single year of experience, when 20 men were transferred from the prestigious Highway Safety Bureau in City Hall after a towing scandal, Patrolman Dewald was one of 20 trusted replacements.

Patrolman Dewald married Lillian C. Feist on January 13, 1953. Soon after, Mrs. Dewald took a clerk's position at the Cabinet-Supreme Savings and Loan Company in Delhi and by 1969 was serving as its secretary. During 1969, Mrs. Dewald became suspicious of a customer and gave the name and circumstances to her husband. Police staked out the savings and loan for several days, but the customer had not returned. On September 24, 1969, he and two others entered the lobby, announced a robbery, herded Mrs. Dewald and three other women into the vault and executed them. Mrs. Dewald was shot four times in the back. The resulting investigation was the first one in the United States where an NCIC "hit" was used to find one of the assassins, the suspicious customer, just north of the Mexican border.

Patrolman Dewald was promoted to Police Specialist on February 25, 1973, issued Badge PS-23, and transferred to District 3 (3201 Warsaw Avenue). Nine months later, he transferred back to Traffic Section where he would remain until he retired on July 5, 1979 with 31 years of service to his country and community. A dedicated policeman, Specialist Dewald had not used almost a year of sick time nor 15 weeks of vacation and holiday time when he retired.

Specialist Dewald was a lifetime and avid bowler, rolling a 300 at the age of 80. He was also an active fisherman and boatman.

Specialist Dewald died on June 17, 2017, 16 days before his 90th birthday – the 11th oldest living Cincinnati Police employee. Funeral arrangements are being handled by Vitt, Stermer, and Anderson Funeral Home in Delhi.

He was predeceased by his wife, Lillian (Feist) Dewald; stepdaughter, Janice (Wiesman) Rahm; and sister, Shirley (Steve) Handra. Specialist Dewald is survived by his wife of 46 years, Marie (Neurohr) Dewald; stepson, Tom (Jackie) Wiesman; grandchildren, Keith (Amie) and Jessica (Tony); 6 great-grandchildren; and sisters Joan (late Carl) Brakers and Gail (Bill) Essen.

Visitation will be held from 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. on Thursday, June 22, 2017 at the Vitt, Stermer and Anderson Funeral Home, 4619 Delhi Road. FOP Services will be held at 12:30 p.m. A Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated at 1 p.m. at Saint Dominic Church.

Memorials may be made to the Alzheimer's Association, 644 Linn Street, STE 1026, Cincinnati, OH 45203.