

Specialist Albert Francis “Big Daddy” Havlis PS-84 (1927-2018)

Al was born April 2, 1927 in Chicago to a Czechoslovakian immigrant and World War I veteran, Albert Frank Havlis, and a first-generation Czechoslovakian, Alice (Perina) Havlis. They moved to Cincinnati between 1942 and 1945 moved his family to Cincinnati.

Al dropped out of high school and, on May 1, 1945, joined the United States Navy to fight in World War II. He served at sea for 13 months and was honorably discharged at the end of the war. Al was recalled back to the Navy in 1950 and served as a Torpedoman's Mate during the Korean conflict aboard the destroyer DD544 (USS Boyd). He was honorably discharged again on August 7, 1951.



Between and after the wars, he worked as a millwright.



Al joined the Cincinnati Police Division as a Police Recruit on April 13, 1953. He was promoted to Patrolman three months later, issued Badge Number 484, and assigned to District 4 (754 W. 5th Street). During July 1954 he was rotated to District 1 (1024 York Street). On August 12, 1956 he transferred to District 2 (314 Broadway) where he spent the next 12 years. On January 7, 1968, he transferred to District 6 (3295 Erie Avenue) where he spent the rest of his career. During 1973, he was written up in the Cincinnati Enquirer for his “very kind and efficient manner.” He was promoted to Police Specialist on July 27, 1976 and issued Badge PS-84. Specialist Havlis retired on July 13, 1985 with 35 years of service to his country and community and 18 letters of appreciation and/or commendation.

His peers inducted him as a Living Legend into the 1132 Legends. He was a longtime parishioner at Guardian Angels Church and a 4th Degree Knight in the Knights of Columbus. He was also a dedicated member of the American Legion Post 484. During the 2018 Police Memorial Ceremony, he laid the Greater Cincinnati Police Museum's wreath at the foot of the memorial statue.

Specialist Havlis was stricken with Prostate Cancer and fought his last battle. During July 2018, Cincinnati Mayor Cranley proclaimed July 25, 2018 “Specialist Albert Havlis Day” in Cincinnati; the official proclamation of which was issued to him by Cincinnati Police Chief Eliot K. Isaac.

Specialist Havlis, surrounded by family, passed away at 8 a.m. on September 12, 2018. He was 91. At the time of his death, he was 6th oldest living Cincinnati Police retiree and the 2nd oldest retired Police Specialist.

He is predeceased by his brother, Leonard Havlis. Specialist Havlis is survived by his wife of 66 years, Virginia E. “Jinny” (Cohen); children, Thomas Havlis, Suzette C. (Michael) Doll, Paul (Cindy) Havlis, and Mary (Mark) Rogers; grandchildren, Kieley Doll, Maxwell Havlis, Sam Havlis, and Rex Rogers; and sister, Marianne Reuscher.

Visitation will be held 2 to 5 p.m. on Sunday, September 16, 2018 at the [T. P. White & Sons Funeral Home](#) at 2050 Beechmont Avenue. FOP services will be held at 4:45 p.m. A Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated at 10:30 a.m. on Monday, September 17, 2018 at [Guardian Angels Church](#).

Memorials may be made to the Greater Cincinnati Police Museum, 308 Reading Road, Suite 201, Cincinnati, Ohio, 45202 or the American Heart Association, 5211 Madison Road, Cincinnati, Ohio 45227.