

# Detective Robert “Mac” McLaren, Jr. (1926-2017)

Bob was born on December 28, 1926 to life-long Glendale residents, Robert and Clara M. (Gerling) McClaren, Sr.

At 17, Bob joined the Merchant Marine, concluded 8 months of training and, by March 1945, was a Warrant Officer. He did a tour in the Pacific, returning home in September. He then enlisted in the United States Army on December 12, 1945 and served during World War II. He was honorably discharged October 6, 1948.



Bob joined the Hamilton County Sheriff’s Office on April 22, 1956 and was assigned to the Road Patrol. During 1963 he was promoted to Detective and assigned to a multi-jurisdictional task force, including the Ohio Pharmacy Board and Cincinnati Police Division, which smashed a \$1000-a-week Heroin ring. After several successful years, including a 1980 Law Enforcement Award from the Brotherhood of Deputy Sheriffs, he was assigned to the Intelligence Section where he spent most of his career.

He served officially as a Patrolman II and Detective and unofficially as Corporal, but the iconic investigator was known throughout his career simply as Detective McLaren. During his career, he received numerous letters of appreciation and/or commendation for investigations of burglars, major narcotic distributors, serial kidnappers, murderers, motorcycle gangs, on-line gamblers, etc. These came from law enforcement agencies in Ohio, Kentucky, Tennessee, and Florida, from a few federal agencies, and almost every village and city in Hamilton County – not to mention several from Hamilton County Sheriffs. Detective McLaren retired February 23, 1994 after 42 years of service to his country and county.

On May 11, 2015, Detective McLaren, at 88 years of age, was selected by the President of the Greater Cincinnati Police Historical Society to lay the Society’s wreath at the foot of the Greater Cincinnati Police Memorial statute during Police Week ceremonies.

Detective McLaren passed away at 8:25 p.m. on December 17, 2017 – 11 days prior to his 91<sup>st</sup> birthday – at Liberty Village in Princeton, Illinois.

He is predeceased by his wife, Dorothy Tibbetts McLaren; brothers, William McLaren and Daniel McLaren; and stepson, Ronald Coffee. Detective McLaren is survived by his wife, Margaret R. Czincila McLaren; daughter, Jacqueline (George) Sun; grandchildren, Michael (Jessica) Sun and Jennifer (Elliott) Aguayo; great-grandchildren, Faith Sun, Declan Sun, and Eliana Aguayo; and stepchildren, Donald (Pam) Coffey, Michael Coffey, and Sharon (Don) Sweger and their children.

Visitation will be held 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Friday, December 22, 2017 at [Hodapp Funeral Home](#), 8815 Cincinnati-Columbus Road (Rt. 42) in West Chester. A funeral service will be held at 1 p.m. Burial will take place at Spring Grove Cemetery with Military Honors at the graveside.

Memorials may be directed the F.O.P. of Hamilton County.