

# Sergeant Paul H. Vogelpohl S-43 (1946-2017)

Paul was born on May 5, 1946 in Cincinnati to Bernard H. and Eleanor B. Vogelpohl. He attended Elder High School and graduated during June 1964. He also attended Villa Madonna until 1966 and the University of Cincinnati until January 1967. He said he walked in the front door of Villa Madonna and straight out the back. But he was there long enough to meet Marta, with whom he would spend the rest of his life.

During summers, Paul worked with his father as a Pipefitter Helper. From November 1965 to February 1966 he also parked cars at the Olympia Auto Park.

At 19, Paul joined the Cincinnati Police Division as a Police Cadet on February 14, 1966. Two days after his 21<sup>st</sup> birthday, Cadet Vogelpohl was promoted to Police Recruit on May 7, 1967. On July 19, 1967, he was promoted to Patrolman, issued Badge Number 294, and assigned to District 1 (310 Lincoln Park Drive). Patrolman Vogelpohl rotated to District 7 (813 Beecher Street) on December 22, 1968. Six months later, he transferred back to District 1. He finished first in a competitive examination for Police Specialist and was promoted on November 18, 1973, and issued Badge Number PS-123. With his work, antics, humor, and generosity he was already a legend when, on December 1, 1974, he was promoted Sergeant, issued Badge Number S-43, and assigned to District 5 (1012 Ludlow Avenue).



Within 2 years, Sergeant Vogelpohl returned to District 1. On January 23, 1983, he transferred to District 3 (3201 Warsaw Avenue) and helped build the legendary “Greatest Relief.” On October 6, 1985, he was assigned to Internal Investigation Section. After almost 2 years, he transferred to District 4 (4150 Reading Road). Two years later, he transferred back to District 3 and the Investigative Unit – which he commanded as Acting Lieutenant for more than a year.

On July 2, 1994, Sergeant Vogelpohl retired with 28 years of service and more letters of appreciation and/or commendation than years served, including from; an Assistant Municipal Prosecutor, a Hamilton County Deputy Sheriff, a Boone County Police Chief, and 5 by Cincinnati Police Chiefs. He was also named a “Living Legend”, an award given by fellow officers during an annual outing established for that purpose.

After “retirement”, Sergeant Vogelpohl took a Private Police Officer commission and began working with the Metropolitan Housing Authority. After more than another 21 years of service to the City’s poorest communities, he retired for good in 2016 with almost 50 total years of service.

During February 2017, Sergeant Vogelpohl began experiencing symptoms which resulted in a diagnosis of Stage II Pancreatic Cancer. He submitted to a grueling surgery and a month recovery in University Hospital. During which, Police Officer Kenneth Grubbs was shot in the line of duty and ended up in the next room. Sergeant Vogelpohl quietly surrendered to Officer Grubbs his “Living Legend” coin saying that he deserved it more. This was far from the first example of his extraordinary generosity, but it was one of very few that became known to anyone but him and the recipient of it.

The aftermath of his cancer surgery was very disappointing – he was re-diagnosed at Stage IV. By July he had unsuccessfully undergone chemotherapy and was in and out of the hospital several times. On July 25<sup>th</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup>, he mustered up the energy to meet old friends at the Pirate’s Den and Roadhouse. The next day, on July 30<sup>th</sup>, he

was taken by ambulance to University Hospital's ICU. He went home that night under hospice care. Surrounded for the next few days by many of his friends and all of his family, Sergeant Vogelpohl passed away peacefully at 10:24 a.m. on August 4, 2017. He was 71.

He was predeceased by his grandchildren, Jake and Amanda, and sisters, Ann Vogelpohl and Ruth "Cookie" Vogelpohl. Sergeant Vogelpohl is survived by his wife of 50 years, Marta (Zelaya) Vogelpohl; children, Cincinnati Police Sergeant Eric (Kellie) Vogelpohl, Terry (Sergeant Michael) Hudepohl, Daniel (Isla) Vogelpohl, and Police Officer Christopher (Stacie) Vogelpohl; grandchildren, Tyler, Emily, Nathan, Noah, Nick, Abbey, Josh, Maggie, Drew, Ethan, Isabella, GH, and Charlie; sister, Katie (Bill) Halbig; sister-in-law, Claudi (Paul) Weisgerber; and brother-in-law, Hector (Gloria) Zelaya.

Visitation was held 4 to 8 p.m., Wednesday, August 9, 2017 at Meyer & Geiser Funeral Home, 4989 Glenway Avenue. By 3:15 p.m., a line streamed from the door, down the ramp, and around the back of the building. When the doors opened at 4 p.m. a steady flow of people visited – a flow that continued unabated for 4 hours. One hour into the visitation, the 500 holy cards which had been ordered were gone – and people kept coming. They came from as far away as the Honduras, Washington State, Arizona, Florida, and elsewhere. An F.O.P service was held at 8 p.m. and attended by more members than any F.O.P. service in the members' recollections. A Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated at 11 a.m. on Thursday, August 10, 2017 at St. Ignatius Church by its Pastor, Father Peter T. St. George. The church and its parking lot were filled. After Mass, Lieutenant Timothy Schoch, retired, presented a poem, *The Final Inspection*, and his son, Eric Vogelpohl, a eulogy.

All the way from the funeral home to the church to the cemetery, Cincinnati, Cheviot, Green Township, and Hamilton County motorcycles and patrol cars blocked intersections. When the last vehicle left the lot, the first in the procession was nearing Westwood Northern Boulevard. Upon arrival at the cemetery, the Delhi Fire Department had an American flag suspended from a ladder truck over the entrance.

Upon reflection, all of this came short of sufficiently honoring Sergeant Vogelpohl. Having known some of the stories, hearing over time other stories, and at the funeral so many more, we are left with the conviction there are so many more that will never be known but to him and each individual they involved. There must be thousands who he helped during his 50 years of service, not including a thousand or more police officers. He had hundreds of friends and none could be as good a friend to him as he was to each of them – he just wouldn't allow it. Don Smith said that he doesn't know anyone who was the best friend to more people. Jock Campbell probably described him best when he said, "A part of the world is gone."