

# Police Officer Jerry C. Heidel P750 (1946-2019)

Jerry was born April 14, 1946, one of twelve children born to Charles J. and Marian J. (Naegele) Heidel. He attended Elder High School, graduating during 1964. He also attended the University of Cincinnati from 1964 to 1965, majoring in English and History.

After high school, he did maintenance for Proctor and Gamble on Spring Grove; worked as a dental lab assistant at Lockheed Dental Lab, and was a computer operator for Littleford Brothers, Inc. on Pearl Street.

Jerry enlisted in the United States Navy on December 15, 1966. He trained as a radioman aboard a destroyer, the USS Henley (DD 762). He was then assigned as a computer operator at the Whidbey Naval Air Station in Washington. For twelve months, he was assigned to the aircraft carrier USS Enterprise (CVN 65) during two of her deployments to Vietnam and while she was the flag ship of Task Force 71; formed after the seizing of the USS Pueblo. Petty Officer 3<sup>rd</sup> Class Heidel was honorably discharged on October 1, 1968 with a National Defense Service Medal; Vietnam Service Medal (with campaign star); Vietnam Campaign Medal; and Unit Citation Medal (with bronze star).



After his discharge he worked as a Cheshire Machine Operator at the Billboard Publishing Company.



On November 9, 1969, Jerry joined the Cincinnati Police Division as a Police Recruit. He was promoted to Patrolman on February 22, 1970, issued Badge 750, and assigned to District 7 (813 Beecher Street). Almost four years later, on December 9, 1973 he transferred to District 3 (3201 Warsaw Avenue). He transferred to an investigative position in the Youth Aid Squad on December 28, 1980. On May 15, 1982 he received an Outstanding Police Performance award from the Greater Cincinnati Chamber of Commerce for his work with children. He returned to District 3 on January 16, 1983 where he served again as a patrol officer, but also as a peer counselor and field training officer. During 1987, he received a Merit Award from the Fraternal Order of Police Auxiliary. On May 20, 1989, he received Women Helping Women's coveted Thomas R. Oberschmidt Award. While still serving in District 3, he was one of three officers detailed to Planning Section to "reduce" the procedure manual to fit on the mobile data terminals in patrol cars. He "retired" from District 3 on January 14, 1995 with 39 letters of appreciation and/or commendation.

He then went on to serve another 12 years as a Law Enforcement Liaison with Women Helping Women. On November 25, 2006, he received the "Highest Heel Peggy Caldwell Award" from the Hope In Heels organization. He finally retired during 2012 with almost 40 years of service to his country and community.

Before the fall of 2018, Officer Heidel contracted Pancreatic Cancer. Surgery failed to bring it under control. By September 22, 2019 he was in hospice care. He passed away at 4:30 a.m. on October 21, 2019 at 73 years of age. Jerry donated his body to science so that he could continue to serve, even after death.

He was predeceased by his mother, Marian J. (Naegele) Heidel; two siblings, Jerome Heidel and Marian Heidel; and brother-in-law, Henry Hofmeyer. Officer Heidel is survived by his children, Wayne Charles (Denise) Heidel and Ohio State Highway Patrol Trooper Lia Christine (Kurt Juengling) Heidel as well as their mother, Gay Heidel. He is also survived by his father, Charles J. Heidel; and siblings, Nancy (Charlie) Fehr, Joanne (Terry) Grote, Daniel (Darlene) Heidel, Rosie (Leroy) Mendell, Susan (David) Lahni, Carol (Henry) Hofmeyer, Chuck (Jenny) Heidel, Mark (Jenny) Heidel, and Christine (Christopher) Bochenek.

A celebration of life memorial will be held at 11 a.m. on Saturday, November 9, 2019 at St. Teresa of Avila Church.

Memorials may be made to Seton High School, c/o Marian Heidel Benson Scholarship Fund, 3901 Glenway Avenue, Cincinnati, OH 45205; Elder High School, c/o Henry Hofmeyer Scholarship Fund, 3900 Vincent Avenue, Cincinnati, OH 45205; Cincinnati VA Medical Center, 3200 Vine Street, Cincinnati, OH 45220; and/or Queen City Hospice, 4605 Duke Drive, Mason, OH 45040.