

# Police Officer William Russell Couch, Jr. P-146 (1951-2019)

Bill was born November 7, 1951 in Cincinnati to William Russell and Joan Shirley (Brunck) Couch, Sr. He attended Western Hills High School and graduated during 1969. He also attended the University of Cincinnati 1970 to 1972, majoring in Criminal Justice.

During 1970, he worked at Jergen's on Spring Grove. During 1971 he was a cashier for the City of Cincinnati at Fountain Square. Then, during the first part of 1973 he worked as a guard at the Northgate Mall; then as a clerk for the Cincinnati Trailer Repair.

Bill joined the Cincinnati Police Division as a Police Recruit on July 1, 1973. He was promoted to Patrolman on November 25, 1973, issued Badge 146, and assigned to District 3 (3201 Warsaw Avenue). A year later he was rotated to District 5 (1012 Ludlow Avenue). On March 20, 1983, he transferred to District 1 (310 Ezzard Charles Drive).

Officer Couch transferred to Central Vice Control Section (222 E. Central Parkway) on April 14, 1985. He transferred back to District 1 on December 27, 1987. Also during the 1980s, he played a 12-string guitar and sang for an all-police band call *Night Beat*. On April 1, 1990, he was transferred to Operation Street Corner.



Five years later, he transferred to the Homicide Unit in the Criminal Investigation Section (824 Broadway). In his last two years there, he earned ratings of 24 out of a theoretically impossible 25; deemed the top search warrant writer in the unit and among the best investigators. He transferred back to District 1 in 2000 and retired May 9, 2001 with 44 letters of appreciation and/or commendation; including nine from police chiefs and one each from the Hamilton County Prosecutor, a City Councilman, and a state senator.

He then went to work with the Warren County Drug Task Force as an undercover Drug Agent. Agent Couch retired again during 2012 with 39 years of service to in two counties.

Thereafter, he was a frequent visitor to the Greater Cincinnati Police Museum.

Officer Couch passed away from the effects of COPD while under hospice care surrounded by family and his friend, Police Officer Randy Froehlich (Retired), on December 11, 2019. He was 68.

He was predeceased by his son, Joseph D. Couch. Officer Couch is survived by his wife of 46½ years, former Cincinnati Police Clerk Typist Janice S. (Pennekamp) Couch; children, Theresa (David) Bradford, William R. (Amanda) Couch, and Thomas Couch, Sr. (Darlene Cornell); grandchildren, Zachary, Taylor, Hannah, Nolan, William R., Wyatt, Joseph W., Jude, Ashley, Thomas Jr., Matthew, Jordan and Lennon; siblings, Susan (Duff) Arnold, Robert (Vicky) Couch, Lisa (Dave) Fisher; siblings-in-law, Sheila Emery, Stephen Pennekamp, and Russell (Kim) Pennekamp; and best friend, Randy (Teri) Froehlich.

Visitation will be held 5:30 to 7:15 p.m. on Tuesday, December 17, 2019 at Meyer Funeral Home at 5864 Bridgetown Road. FOP services will be held at 7:15. A Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated at 11 a.m. on Wednesday, December 18, 2019 at St. Joseph Church at 25 E. Harrison Avenue in North Bend.

Memorials may be made to the [Greater Cincinnati Police Museum](#), 308 Reading Road – STE 201, Cincinnati, OH 45202 or to the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention, 120 Wall Street – FL 29, New York, NY 10005.