

Policewoman Specialist Patricia Ellen (Whalen) Herron PS-72 (1935-2020)

Pat was born July 30, 1935 in Ohio to Frank E. and Mary A. Whalen of Price Hill. She attended Western Hills High School and participated in basketball, Sr. Girls Club, Y-Teens, and the Merchandising Club. She graduated in 1953. She then attended the University of Cincinnati, majoring in business, until 1955.

Pat went to work for Mabley-Carew and from 1956 to 1958 she was an assistant buyer in their purse department.



The Cincinnati Civil Service Commission on November 7, 1958 announced that Pat was the only one of thirteen contestants to pass an entrance examination for Policewoman. She joined the Cincinnati Police Division on November 17, 1958 as a Police Recruit and was elected class secretary. On February 22, 1959 she was appointed Policewoman, issued Badge 830, and assigned to the Juvenile Bureau. During 1960, she attended a training course in juvenile delinquency control at the University of Wisconsin. She also attended a course at the University of Indiana. During December 1962 Policewoman Whalen graduated from the University of Southern California's three-month Delinquency Control Institute.

She competed in the first promotional examination for Policewoman Specialist and earned a promotion on January 2, 1966, was issued Badge PS-72, and assigned to the Investigations Bureau. Two years later, on December 22, 1968, Specialist Herron transferred to the Community Relations Bureau. Two days after that, she was elected treasurer of the Fraternal Order of Police (FOP) Lodge 69 which represented Cincinnati, Park, and St. Bernard police officers – the first female to hold office in the lodge. With the advent of the personal police two-way walkie-talkie radio, the Cincinnati Police Division issued radically altered uniforms in 1971 and added one for policewomen. Specialist Whalen selected the policewomen's uniform and designed a purse to carry a radio, pistol, handcuffs, and mace. During her career she spoke at many community meetings including topics of women's self-defense, abuse of children, and juvenile delinquency. She was also the first woman to teach at the Cincinnati Police Academy.

Specialist Whalen married Cincinnati Police Specialist Roger Albert Herron on March 18, 1972. She retired four weeks later on April 15, 1972 with thirteen years of service and forty-five letters of appreciation.

Specialist Herron was honored at the Greater Cincinnati Police Museum on June 21, 2008.

She suffered a major stroke on October 1, 2020 and treated at Jewish Hospital in Kenwood, admitted to hospice care in Blue Ash, and died during the afternoon of October 8, 2020. She was 85.

She is predeceased by her husband of thirty years, Cincinnati Police Specialist Roger A. Herron (2002). Policewoman Specialist Herron is survived by her daughter, Kathleen Ellen (Roger) Turner, and grandson, Samuel Turner.

Graveside services only will be held at the convenience of the family.