

Police Chief Roger Ulrich Johannes (1938-2020)

Roger was born January 16, 1938 to Uhlrich George and Norma Ethel (Heusman) Johannes of Golf Manor. He graduated from Central High School.

Roger joined the United States Navy and served aboard the newly christened U.S.S. Ranger (CV-61), a Forrestal-class supercarrier. She was the flagship for Carrier Division Two of the Seventh Fleet and conducted air operations off Okinawa and Subic Bay, launching more than 7000 sorties, during the Vietnam War. We believe he had been aboard for as many as three deployments to the Far East when he was honorably discharged.



Roger joined the Hamilton County Sheriff's Office in 1963 and served in the Patrol Division. On October 5, 1963, Patrolmen Johannes, and two others, found a woman unconscious in bed on Woodlawn Avenue in Rossmoyne and saved her while inhaling smoke thick enough to cause one deputy to lose consciousness.

Deputy Johannes left the Sheriff's Office in 1966 to help build the new Colerain Township Police Department. By 1968 he was a Sergeant. At times, he was a parttime officer and even a parttime assistant chief. He also worked parttime for Forest Park and Springfield Township Police Departments. Additionally, he worked parttime with the United States Marshal's Service transporting federal prisoners and providing security for special federal trials and conducting advanced firearms training for specialized police squads.



While conducting advanced firearms training, he had an idea to build a privately owned indoor target range and with some monetary assistance, in 1975, he built and helped manage Target World on Princeton Road. At the time, there may not have been more than a dozen privately owned ranges of its type in the country.

On May 24, 1981, he was appointed Colerain Township Police Chief. The citizens of Colerain Township turned down police levy after police levy and finally the township administrators felt it necessary in January 1986 to disband the Police Department. By then, Chief Johannes had served the country, county, and township more than 25 years.

He then went to Terrace Park where he served as an administrative assistant. Then he joined the security force at General Electric. Later, Chief Johannes managed Westec Security, founded in 1996. And until his death, he worked as a firearms instructor at the Butler County Sheriff's Office.

Chief Johannes was a member of the American Legion and Veterans of Foreign Wars, and past president of the Hamilton County Police Association and Hamilton County Chiefs Association.

During 2020, Chief Johannes had multiple medical issues which kept him in and out of the hospital. He died on November 7, 2020 in Mercy Fairfield Hospital at age 82

He is survived by his wife, Rita Frances (Lawton) Johannes; children, Bradley Roger (Terri) Johannes, Kelly Christine Johannes King, Kevin George (Shelly) Johannes, and Jeffrey Frank (Madeline) Johannes; grandchildren, Jonathan (Sarah), Jason, Cameron Jordan, Jaden, Carson, Kaycee, Kaylee, Jacob, Matthew and Ryan; great-grandchildren, Natalie and Landon; and brother, Gregory Johannes.

Visitation will be held 12 to 2 p.m. on Friday, November 13, 2020 at the Neidhard Young Funeral Home at 7401 Hamilton Avenue in Mt. Healthy. A funeral service will be held at 2 p.m.

Donations may be sent to the Hamilton County Police Association.