

Detective Melvin O. Gray (1961-2021)

Mel was born October 24, 1961 in Manchester, Kentucky to Cecil and Delphia (Smith) Gray.

Mel joined the Hamilton Police Department as a Police Officer on December 26, 1990. Officer Gray was a member of the Special Weapons and Tactics team for 20 years as a sniper and on the entry team. During 2004 the team won first place in the state competition. In 2007, Officer Gray participated in another award-winning team, Hamilton's



Community-Oriented Policing team. He also was a Bicycle Officer, Mounted Officer, and Segway officer. Additionally, he was a Field Training Officer and Firearms Instructor. In 2008, the SWAT team took national honors in Orlando, Florida.

He was promoted to Detective on May 1, 2015 and assigned to the Adult Detective Section. He completed many specialized investigative courses including Ballistics Identification, Forensic Aspects of Death, Shooting Reconstruction, DNA, Homicide, Hazmat, and others, making him an exceptional Crime Scene Technician. At the time of his death he had served almost 31 years and earned more than 30 letters of appreciation and/or commendation.

Detective Gray contracted COVID and battled it for weeks. He died on October 30, 2021 at the age of 60. Hamilton Chief of Police Craig R. Bucheit declared a 30-day period of mourning ending November 30, 2021 at age 60.

He was predeceased by his father, Cecil Gray, and daughter, Sarah Gray. Detective Gray is survived by his wife of 34 years, JoAnne Ruth (Bollman) Gray; mother, Delphia Gray; children, Adam Ryan (Maria) Gray, Aaron Jacob Gray, Nathanael Gray, and Susanna Gray; grandchildren, Josiah, Peter, and Elijah; and sister Nancy (Terry) Coughlin.

Visitation and services will be held 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. on Saturday, November 6, 2021 at the [Miltonville Baptist Church](#) at 4475 Elk Creek Road in Middletown. An FOP Service will be held at noon, followed by a funeral service officiated by Pastors Jesse Combs and Wallace Miller. The graveside ceremony will be private.

Hamilton Police Department and retired personnel: Due to limited parking at the church, the Department will provide bus transportation. Please form up outside the church and pay respects via a final salute and last radio call.