

Sergeant/Doctor Richard Stewart “Rick” Rhodes S-90 (1938-2025)



Rick was born on September 23, 1938 to Raymond David and Eloise G. (Stewart) Rhodes. He attended Withrow High School, played Reserve Football, and graduated in 1956.

Rick joined the United States Army on October 7, 1957. In Germany, he completed Non-Commissioned Officers School in August 1958. He completed Demolition School in Murnau, Germany in February 1959 and served in the Engineers as a demolition expert. Specialist 4 Rhodes was honorably discharged on September 12, 1959 with a Good Conduct Medal.

When he returned home, Rick joined the Cincinnati Police Division as the Department's 48th Police Cadet on January 11, 1960, and was assigned to Central Station (city jail in City Hall). Four months later, on May 31, 1960, he entered the Department's 38th Recruit Class. He was promoted to Patrolman on September 11, 1960, issued Badge 556, and assigned to District 7 (813 Beecher Street). Patrolman Rhodes was rotated to District 4 (7017 Vine Street) in February 1962. He completed the prestigious Homicide Seminar at the Kettering Laboratory in November 1964. On December 13, 1964, he was assigned to the Vice Control Bureau (City Hall).

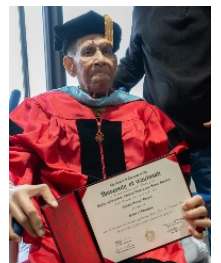
On February 27, 1966, he was one of the first Patrolmen promoted to the new rank of Police Specialist and issued Badge PS-102. On March 24, 1971 he was honored at the annual Greater Cincinnati Chamber of Commerce Police Appreciation Awards Banquet with their valor award for a shootout during a raid on June 7, 1970 at a West End liquor store. On July 2, 1972, Specialist Rhodes transferred to District 6 (3295 Erie Avenue) Investigative Unit. By 1979, he founded the Sentinels organization. On June 10, 1984, the University of Cincinnati awarded him a diploma as a Doctor of Education. Specialist Rhodes completed the one-week Instructors Development Course held by the Federal Bureau of Investigation in June 1985. In 1987 he received a letter of commendation for entering a burning building and saving residents therein.

He was promoted to Sergeant on May 22, 1988, issued Badge S-90, and assigned to District 4 (by then at 4150 Reading Road). On February 26, 1989, he transferred back to District 2 (old District 6). His commanders assessed his performance due to his various assignments and experiences as consistent performance with administrative duties and field supervision. Sergeant Rhodes retired on his 52nd birthday, September 23, 1990, with 32 years of service to our country and community and 22 letters of appreciation and/or commendation.

Sergeant Rhodes also held a high degree black belt in karate. He was a professor at the University of Cincinnati for more than twenty years at the College of Education and Humanities and Criminal Justice. He was a manager and bodyguard to the late Redd Foxx. Sergeant Rhodes also founded his own security company, Amalgamated Security Services, Inc.

Beginning in 1997, Sergeant Rhodes began researching and unearthing government documents regarding the massacre of 11 prisoners of war from the 333rd Field Artillery Battalion, including his great uncle James Aubry Stewart, 53 years earlier in Wereth, Belgium on December 17, 1944. He completed his mission 13 years later in 2010. Finally, Sergeant Rhodes authored four books including, *Gun, Badge & Cuffs* (2011), *Blanket: A Boy and His Dog: A Series of Short Stories* (2016), *Who Said That: Writings from an Empty Room* (2023), and one other.

After he was diagnosed with a fatal disease and entering hospice care at Hospice of Cincinnati, he mentioned to an aid that his one regret in life was not having been photographed in his doctoral gown. On May 19, 2025, his caregivers gave him that opportunity. Sergeant Rhodes died at home under hospice care during the morning of June 5, 2025 at the age of 86.



His wife, Gwen, survives him.

Visitation will be held 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Friday, June 27, 2025 at Zion Baptist Church at 630 Glenwood Avenue. FOP Services will be held at 1:45 p.m.. Funeral Services will be held at 2 p.m.