

Captain Arthur Howard Shearer (1925-2021)

Art was born on May 5, 1925 in Cincinnati, the first born of Ansley “Whitey” and Dorothy Shearer. In 1927, his father joined the Cincinnati Police Department. A year later, his uncle, Elmer Lawrence, joined the Department, beginning a family tradition. Both were transferred to District 7 in 1929, then to the Safety Patrol in 1931. They served together until 1934 when Elmer was promoted to Detective. About 1939, Art attended Withrow High School.

Before completing high school, almost immediately after the bombing of Pearl Harbor, Art began asking his parents to sign a release for him to enter the war. They acquiesced and the 17-year-old enlisted in the United States Marine Corps and left for Boot Camp at Parris Island on August 4, 1942. By the time he returned home on leave, his father had taken military leave from the Department and joined



Ansley and Arthur Shearer

the United States Coast Guard. His uncle and brother, Walter, also entered military service. Art served in the 4th Marine Division. Acting Corporal Shearer was severely wounded five times on Iwo Jima and evacuated to the States November 4, 1945. By May 6, 1944, Corporal Shearer was back at war and participated in the invasion of Kwajalein Atoll in the Marshall Islands. In July, he was on Saipan, and his father was serving in California. His brother was in the 82nd Airborne and had already made 21 parachute jumps. Corporal Shearer was honorably discharged on November 3, 1945 with a Navy Commendation Medal for Bravery on Saipan, two Purple Heart medals, and citations for excellence on Saipan, Tinian, Mariana Islands by General C. B. Cates Commanding 4th Marines.



Art, Walter, and dozens of World War II veterans went back to high school and in April 1946 earned diplomas from Withrow High School. And Walter joined the Hamilton County Sheriff’s Department as a Patrolman.



On June 16, 1953, a year after his father retired from the Cincinnati Police Division, Art joined the Hamilton County Sheriff’s Office. Art was also assigned to the Patrol Division and worked a huge beat in western Hamilton County including Green, Colerain, Whitewater, Miami, Harrison, Crosby, and Delhi Townships. In 1955, he was chosen to attend the highly touted Homicide Seminar conducted at the Sloane Kettering Laboratory at the University of Cincinnati. From 1957 to 1959, Patrolman Shearer was assigned to Traffic Safety. On November 20, 1958, he helped found the Cincinnati Chapter of the Ohio Civil Service Employees Union and was elected as an Executive Board Member. He would negotiate for wages and personnel conflicts for the rest of his career. From 1956 to 1959, he spearheaded efforts to standardize safety regulations and inspections for school buses statewide.

In 1959 he was appointed Acting Corporal and Relief Supervisor. On January 15, 1960 he was promoted to Corporal and returned to the Patrol Division in western Hamilton County. On January 21, 1965, both he and his brother were promoted to Lieutenant. Even as a Lieutenant, he was still active and on May 10, 1967, while doing routine business checks, found two burglars at George’s Sohio gas



station in the Monfort Height Shopping Center. On June 10, 1968, he and another officer apprehended two fugitive thieves in an apartment building. He was still representing Hamilton County Sheriff’s Office employees in wage negotiations and conflicts in 1969. The Hamilton County Commissioners, on January 18, 1978, appointed Lieutenant Shearer as a member of the newly created Hamilton County Youth Service Coordination Council. On May 10, 1979, Sheriff Stokes promoted him to Captain and assigned him as Night Shift Commander. During July 1979, he updated the entire Patrol Division Rules and Regulations and Procedure Manual. Captain Shearer retired on February 28, 1980 with 30 years of service to his country and county and numerous letters of appreciation and/or commendation.

After retiring, Captain Shearer joined the General Electric Security Department and served another 14 years until 1994.

Captain Shearer died in Brevard, Florida on October 22, 2021 after almost 96½ years. Services were in Florida.

Those who predeceased him including his father, Cincinnati Patrolman Ansley (1985); daughter, Connie Lynn Baird (2003); brother, Hamilton County Sheriff’s Lieutenant Walter Shearer (2007); and uncle, Cincinnati Detective Elmer Lawrence (1941). Captain Shearer was survived by his wife, Charlotte Shearer; daughter, Linda Sue Kleisinger; stepchildren, Rebecca Boldin, Andrew Boldin, Jennifer A. Boldin; grandchildren, Todd Kleisinger, Jeff Kleisinger, Alex Meyer, Tammy Kleisinger, Megan Baird, Alexandra Boldin, and Hanami Baird; great grandchildren, Landen Stalf, Jessica Johnson, Austin Kleisinger, Cailyn Kleisinger, Aiden Luallen, Nathan Baird, Hadley Baird, and Stella Boldin-Waits; and niece, Pamela Shearer Hochhausler, of the Hamilton County Sheriff’s Office, continuing an almost 100-year old blue blood family tradition.