

FALLEN FINEST

POLICE OFFICER EDWARD R. BYRNE

103 Precinct

Police Officer Edward Byrne was shot and killed in an ambush while sitting in his patrol car on Friday, February 26, 1988.



Police Officer Byrne was assigned to guard the residence of a witness in a drug case and was sitting in a marked patrol car, parked at the curb on the corner of 107th Avenue and Inwood Street in the South Jamaica section of Queens.

Around 3:30 am, two suspects drove up in a vehicle and approached the officer. One of suspects knocked on the passenger window to distract him as the second suspect crept up beside the driver's window and opened fire at point blank range, striking Officer Byrne in the head five times. Two additional suspects served as lookouts.

Officer Byrne was rushed to Mary Immaculate Hospital but succumbed to his wounds.

The four suspects were members of a drug ring who were instructed to kill a police officer by their leader who was in a New York prison for drug trafficking. The four were apprehended, convicted of murder, and sentenced to 25 years to life. The gang's leader was also convicted of Officer Byrne's murder and sentenced to life.

At the June 13, 1989 Medal Day ceremony, Officer Byrne was posthumously awarded the prestigious NYPD Medal of Honor.

Police Officer Edward R. Byrne had turned 22 years old less than a week before the tragedy and had served just seven months with the New York City Police Department.

He was survived by his parents, Ann and Matthew who was a retired NYPD Lieutenant and Director of the Legal Bureau; and three brothers, Lawrence (the NYPD's Deputy Commissioner for Legal Matters), Steve and Kenneth.

