

FALLEN FINEST

POLICE OFFICER JAMES HOLMES Police Service Area 3



Police Officer James Holmes was shot and killed on while off-duty when a man attempted to rob him on Sunday, March 23, 1986.

At about 10:25 pm, Officer Holmes was visiting a friend at the Van Dyke Houses, on Livonia Avenue in the Brownsville section of Brooklyn.

After entering the building, he was approached by a man who attempted to rob him. Officer Holmes resisted but the suspect was able to render Officer Holmes unconscious. The suspect then stole Officer Holmes' firearm and fled. Within moments, he returned and shot officer Holmes multiple times as he lay unconscious.

Officer Holmes was removed to Brookdale Hospital but could not be revived.

The suspect, who was on probation for a prior robbery, was arrested after he told his probation officer that he thought he might be wanted for killing a Police Officer. He was later convicted of 2nd Degree Murder, 1st Degree Robbery and 2nd Degree Criminal Possession of a Weapon. He was sentenced to 32 1/2 years to life in prison. The suspect is eligible for parole on May 31, 2019.

On September 4, 1986, at City Hall Plaza, the Medal of Honor, for "acts of extraordinary bravery in the line of duty", was posthumously awarded to Officer Holmes.

Police Officer James Holmes, 47 years old, was one day short of serving 17 years with the New York City Housing Authority Police. He was survived by his wife, Nancy, and four children, Lesley, Angela, Darryl and Gregory who served with the New York City Transit Police Department for 9 years.

