

FALLEN FINEST

POLICE OFFICER RUDOLPH P. THOMAS Jr. Police Service Area #3



In the early morning hours of Sunday, July 4, 1993, Police Officer Rudolph P. Thomas Jr. was shot and killed during an attempted robbery outside of a Brooklyn deli.

Officer Thomas and his girlfriend had been celebrating the fourth anniversary of their first date. After leaving a diner, Officer Thomas and his girlfriend arrived at a deli on Pennsylvania Avenue in the East New York section of Brooklyn to make a purchase.

As Officer Thomas sat on his new motorcycle and waited by the curb, two males approached him and one was holding a firearm. The males demanded that Officer Thomas give them his motorcycle. Officer Thomas put his hand up, told the men that he was a Police Officer and tried to calm them. As he started to get off the motorcycle, the armed suspect fired his weapon, striking Officer Thomas once in the head and killing him. The perpetrators then attempted to take the motorcycle but could not get it started so they fled on foot.

The suspect was arrested a few days later and charged with felony murder.

Officer Thomas was well known for being kind and warm with a huge personality. At the time of the incident, he was considering both taking the sergeant's exam and attending John Jay College of Criminal Justice.

Police Officer Rudolph P. Thomas Jr. served with the Department for 2 years, 8 months and was 27 years old. He was survived by his parents, Joyce and Rudolph Sr.; and his brothers, Whitney and Wyan.

