

FALLEN FINEST

POLICE OFFICER KEVIN J. GILLESPIE Street Crime Unit



On Thursday, March 14, 1996, Police Officer Kevin Gillespie was shot and killed by the occupants of a stolen vehicle that he had stopped.

At approximately 9:50 pm, Officer Gillespie and his partner, who were in an unmarked auto, followed a BMW which had been car-jacked earlier in the evening by four armed males. At East 183rd Street and the Grand Concourse in the Bronx, while the vehicle was stopped at a red-light, Gillespie and his partner, assisted by other responding officers, boxed-in the stolen vehicle with their police autos. As the officers approached the stolen vehicle, the suspects exited the vehicle and fled with officers in pursuit. One suspect opened fire at Office Gillespie, striking him in the collarbone, above his vest. The bullet went straight down his torso striking many organs. He died an hour later at a St. Barnabas Hospital.

Officer Gillespie's partner thought that he had dove for cover and pursued the suspects in a running gun battle down the Grand Concourse. One suspect was shot five times and seriously injured while another was arrested at the scene. The suspect, who shot Officer Gillespie, committed suicide in jail by hanging himself.

On September 18, 1997, Police Officer Gillespie was posthumously awarded the New York City Police Department Medal of Honor.

Police Officer Kevin J. Gillespie was 33 years old and had served with the New York City Police Department for 4 years. He was survived by his wife, Patricia; his sons, Daniel and Robert; and his mother, Theresa; and his siblings, Patrick and Donna.

