

FALLEN FINEST

DETECTIVE FIRST GRADE DILLON H. STEWART 70 Precinct

Detective Dillon Stewart was shot and killed as he and his partner attempted to pull over a car for a traffic infraction on Monday, November 28, 2005.



At about 2:50 am, Stewart, then a police officer, and his partner observed a vehicle go through a red light at the intersection of Flatbush and Church Avenues in the Flatbush section of Brooklyn. The driver refused to stop the vehicle, which displayed a stolen New Jersey license plate.

As the unmarked police car pulled up to the passenger side of the car, the driver leaned over and discharged at least five shots at both officers out the passenger side window. One of the rounds struck Officer Stewart under his left arm, passed between the front and back panel of his bullet resistant vest and struck his heart.

Despite the wound, Officer Stewart continued the pursuit. The suspect sped into a basement garage on East 21st Street, about two blocks away. Two backup officers shot at the stolen vehicle as a mechanized metal gate at the garage entrance rolled down, but were unable to get into the garage before the gate closed. Before police were able to gain entry to the garage, the suspect had escaped through a window.

Officer Stewart was rushed to Kings County Hospital where he died six hours later from his wounds.

The suspect was later apprehended inside an apartment about a block from the garage. The 9mm handgun he used was recovered outside the apartment building.

Later, it was discovered that 9 days earlier, the suspect shot and wounded an off-duty New York City Police Officer during a botched robbery attempted on November 19, 2005. He was charged with first degree murder for killing Officer Stewart, and attempted murder for the shooting of the off-duty officer. In late 2007, the suspect was convicted of first degree murder for killing Police Officer Stewart and sentenced to life without the possibility of parole.

Officer Stewart was posthumously promoted to the rank of Detective First Grade on November 30, 2005. On June 15, 2006, he was posthumously awarded the NYPD's Medal of Honor.

Detective Dillon H. Stewart served with the NYPD for five years. He was 35 years old and was survived by his wife, Leslyn and their two daughters, Alexis and Samantha. Leslyn went on to become the founder and President of the Metro New York Chapter of Concerns of Police Survivors (C.O.P.S.).

