

FALLEN FINEST

DETECTIVE FIRST GRADE OMAR EDWARDS

Housing Bureau Manhattan - Impact Response Team



On May 28, 2009, then-Police Officer Omar Edwards was shot and killed in a case of mistaken identity while attempting to arrest a man who he caught breaking into his car.

At about 10:30 pm, Officer Edwards, who was in plainclothes, had just finished his shift and was returning

to his personal vehicle when he discovered a man breaking into his car.

Officer Edwards attempted to arrest the suspect, but the suspect broke free and fled on foot as Officer Edwards chased him with his gun drawn. Three officers, driving by, observed Officer Edwards chasing the suspect and made a U-turn to follow them. One of the officers exited the patrol car and opened fire, striking Officer Edwards. He was transported to Harlem Hospital Center where he succumbed to his wounds.

Edwards was appointed to the New York City Police Department in July 2007. Despite just a short time on patrol, he effected 24 arrests. Fellow officers privileged to know Officer Edwards also knew something else: he was fast and utilized that speed to great effect, whether it was on patrol or on the field with the NYPD Football Team.

On June 4, 2009, during his funeral, Mayor Michael R. Bloomberg announced that Police Officer Edwards was posthumously promoted to the rank of Detective, First Grade. Then on June 8, 2010, Detective Edwards was posthumously awarded the NYPD Medal of Honor.

Detective Omar Edwards served with the New York City Police Department for two years and was 25 years old. He is survived by his wife Danielle; two sons, Xavier and Keanu; and his parents, Ricardo and Natalia.

