

# FALLEN FINEST

## DETECTIVE FIRST GRADE STEVEN D. MCDONALD Central Park Precinct

**O**n Tuesday, January 10, 2017, Detective First Grade Steven D. McDonald died of complications from gunshot injuries he received 31 years earlier while questioning a robbery suspect.



Due to reports of recent robberies, then-Police Officer McDonald and his partner, were on patrol in Central Park on Saturday, July 12, 1986. At about 4:15 pm, as Officer McDonald questioned three suspicious male youths about bicycle thefts, one of them produced a .22 caliber revolver and shot Officer McDonald three times. Officer McDonald was rushed to Harlem's Metropolitan Hospital. Miraculously he survived but his injuries rendered him quadriplegic and in need of a ventilator.

Several months after the incident, McDonald reported to the press that he had forgiven the suspect for his actions. For the rest of his life, Detective McDonald was known as an international champion for peace and a source of support for other wounded police officers.

The suspect, who was arrested within minutes, served nine years in prison for the shooting. On September 9, 1995, three days after his release on parole, the perpetrator was killed in a motorcycle accident.

Detective McDonald received the Medal of Honor on June 9, 1987 and on December 23, 2003, he was promoted to Detective First Grade.

A former U.S. Navy hospital corpsman, and third generation police officer, Detective Steven D. McDonald served with the NYPD for 33 years and was 59 years of age. He was survived by his wife, Patricia Ann "Patti Ann", who was elected Mayor of Malverne, New York in March 2007 and his son, Conor, who followed his father's footsteps and joined the NYPD in 2010. At the time of the shooting, Steven and Patti Ann had been married for less than a year and Patti Ann was pregnant with Conor.

