

2012 CLEVELAND POLICE OFFICER OF THE YEAR



PATROL OFFICER DANIEL L. BAILLIS

The Cleveland Division of Police to an officer who demonstrates an outstanding devotion to duty, and consistently performs to the highest degree, beyond that established by their peers bestows the “Police Officer of the Year” award. The Cleveland Police Foundation is proud to recognize and celebrate the distinguished career of one of the best of “Cleveland’s Finest.”

Patrol Officer Daniel L. Baillis began his career as a Cleveland police officer on July 23, 1979. Early on, he established a reputation as an extremely productive and hardworking member. His strong work ethic, self-motivation and determined pursuit of those who prey upon innocent victims drew consistent praise from his fellow officers and supervisors.

Spending his entire career in the 5th District on the city’s east side, which was later merged into the 3rd District, Dan served in Basic Patrol, and the Vice and Strike Force units. As a detective in the Strike Force Unit for almost 20 years, he was noted for his extraordinary ability for finding those missing pieces of the puzzle that helped to bring criminals to justice. Locating that critical bit of information, incriminating evidence, reluctant witness, or suspect’s identity was his specialty.

During his 33-year tour of duty, he has been awarded the Medal of Honor, the Division’s highest award; the Medal of Heroism, three (3) Distinguished Service Medals, four (4) special commendations, two (2) Chief’s Commendations, the Rotary Club Valor Award, numerous other awards and letters of commendations. His arrest statistics were amongst the highest in the city, but his personnel file is also filled with countless letters from residents who were moved by his professionalism and empathy.

Dan was born and raised in Cleveland, attended Cleveland Public Schools, and graduated from Lincoln West High School in 1974. He earned an Associates Degree in Applied Science/Law Enforcement from Cuyahoga Community College, and also attended Cleveland State University. He still resides in Cleveland with his wife Debra. They have three sons who are attending Toledo Medical School, Ohio University and Bowling Green State University respectively.

On August 2, 2012 Dan retired from service with the Cleveland Division of Police. The fast-paced world in which we live, and the passing of time may make many of our police officers who served this community a fading memory, but P.O. Dan Baillis leaves behind a legacy for his peers to remember a “Cop’s Cop” who truly made a difference.

We are proud to recognize “Detective” Daniel L. Baillis for his outstanding career and wish him a long, happy and healthy retirement.