

• **2014 Lifetime Achievement Award** •
Chief Edward P. Kovacic
Cleveland Division of Police (Retired)

The Cleveland Police Foundation is honored to recognize Chief Edward P. Kovacic for a lifetime of distinguished service to the community.

Born in 1930, Ed Kovacic lived in Cleveland for 65 years, during which time he never lived outside the boundaries of the old 6th Police District, leaving only to serve our country in the U.S. Army.

He graduated from Cathedral Latin High School in 1948 and was married in 1951 to Barbara Ward. Soon after the wedding Ed was drafted and was serving in Germany when the first of their six children was born. They have been married for 63 years, and Ed credits much of his success to her loving support.

He started his career in law enforcement as a patrol officer for the Cleveland Division of Police in 1959. Upon graduation from the police academy his first assignment was walking a beat in the 6th district. He subsequently served in basic patrol, the detective bureau, including the Decoy Squad and Bomb Unit. He was promoted to sergeant in 1970, lieutenant in 1975, and captain in 1980. When he retired in 1985, he was the commanding officer of the 6th District. Taking advantage of his experience and expertise, the Cuyahoga County Sheriff's Office convinced him to continue serving the public as an Inspector with their agency until 1990, when was appointed Chief of Police for the City of Cleveland.

During his relatively short tenure, he became one of the most respected and well-liked chiefs in the history of the CPD. In addition to earning the respect of the rank and file police officers, Chief Kovacic was also well respected by citizens

groups, organizations and businesses throughout the City.

When asked to reflect on his time as a police officer, Chief Kovacic stated, "One of the most satisfying and proudest accomplishments

while I was chief was seeing the Greater Cleveland Peace Officers Memorial being built." Few people know that when asked to help with the project, Chief Kovacic enthusiastically got involved and recruited the assistance of Sam Miller, storied philanthropist and staunch supporter of the police. Under their leadership the memorial was dedicated on May 14, 1993.

After leaving the Division in 1994, he became the Director of Security for Gateway Development Corporation, planning and managing the security operation for the newly constructed arena for the Cleveland Cavaliers and ballpark for the Cleveland Indians,

Since his retirement in 1996, Kovacic has been a consultant to authors, news media, businesses, and numerous law enforcement agencies, including Cleveland. He has lectured at colleges and universities in the region and testified in court on behalf of the interests of police officers and their families.

To the police officers that he led, and those from throughout the United States and Canada who know him, he will always be affectionately known as "Chief."

Our sincere thanks to Chief Kovacic for his years of dedicated service to the community, the police officers with which he worked, and to keeping the promise to never forget those that made the ultimate sacrifice.

