

# FALLEN FINEST

## DETECTIVE ANTHONY J. VENDITTI

Joint Organized Crime Task Force



On Tuesday, January 21st, 1986, Detective Anthony J. Venditti was shot and killed by members of an Organized Crime Syndicate he was investigating.

A little after 8:20 pm, after a full day of conducting surveillance of known Mafia associates, Detective Venditti and his partner stopped to use the restroom at a local diner near St. Nicholas Avenue in the Ridgewood section of Queens.

Near the entrance, Detective Venditti was surrounded by three male suspects who shoved him against a wall on the outside of the restaurant. Detective Venditti's partner exited their unmarked vehicle and drew her weapon, but was shot and wounded in the left side of her chest. The suspects then shot Detective Venditti multiple times in the head and back.

Both officers were rushed to Wyckoff Heights Hospital where Detective Venditti died of his injuries.

One suspect was captured by patrol officers as he was seen running from the diner. The other two suspects were apprehended within two days. All three suspects were charged with murder but received acquittals. They were later convicted on Federal racketeering charges and sentenced to prison.

The Medal of Honor was posthumously awarded to Detective Venditti in June 1987 at the NYPD Medal Day Ceremony.

Detective Anthony J. Venditti was 34 years old and was a member of the New York City Police Department for almost 14 years. He is survived by his wife, Patricia; their four daughters, Traysia, Andrea, Patrice and Kaitlyn; his parents, Ann and Anthony Sr.; and his brother, Paschal.

