

# FALLEN FINEST

## DETECTIVE JOSEPH GALAPO Brooklyn South Narcotics



**P**olice Officer Joseph "Joe" Galapo was shot and killed during a narcotics arrest when a suspect attempting to escape from custody caused an accidental discharge to occur.

On Tuesday, August 16, 1988, Officer Galapo and his partner, a sergeant, were part of an enforcement team conducting a "Buy and Bust" Narcotics Operation in the Sunset Park Section of Brooklyn.

At approximately 6:00 pm, Officer Galapo observed a narcotics transaction involving several men standing in a doorway. He and his sergeant approached the men on foot. The suspects were informed that they were under arrest and were placed against a car to be frisked and handcuffed. Deciding to escape, one suspect suddenly spun around and smashed into the sergeant's right hand, causing a round to be discharged from the sergeant's revolver. The single shot struck Police Officer Galapo in the face fatally wounding him.

Officer Galapo was removed to Lutheran Medical Center where he died from the wound several hours later.

The suspect was apprehended after a short pursuit and charged with Criminally Negligent Homicide.

On Friday, August 26, 1988, Police Commissioner Benjamin Ward posthumously promoted Police Officer Galapo to Detective.

Police Officer Joseph Galapo was 30 years old and served with the NYPD for 5 years. He was survived by his mother, Yvonne; his wife, "Lana"; their three sons, Daniel, Robert and Richard; and his brother, Abraham, who works with the NYPD as a civilian auto mechanic.

