FALLEN FINEST

POLICE OFFICER
PAUL HEIDELBERGER
Police Service Area 4

P olice Officer Paul Heidelberger was shot and killed while attempting to break up a fight which began in a Queens bar on Saturday, July 18, 1992.

The fight erupted inside a night club at the intersection of Bell Boulevard and 39th Avenue in the Bayside section of Queens. One of the combatants hit a Bouncer over the head with a bottle.

It was shortly after 3:30 a.m. when off-duty Police Officer Heidelberger attempted to break up the fight. Officer Heidelberger was escorting some bystanders, and those who had been fighting, to their cars when the Bouncer returned with a gun and opened fire into the group of people. Officer Heidelberger and another man were struck by the gunfire and fell. The Bouncer then brazenly walked over to the wounded men and shot Officer Heidelberger and the other man in the head, killing them. He also shot and wounded a third man at the scene.

The suspect fled the scene but was arrested several days later. He was convicted of one count of second degree murder and one count of second degree manslaughter and sentenced to 30 years to life. He will be eligible for parole in 2022.

Police Officer Paul Heidelberger was only 28 years old and had served the Police Department for 6 years and 6 months. He was survived by his mother, Gertrude; his brothers, George and Thomas; and his sisters, Mary and Ann.