

FALLEN FINEST

POLICE OFFICER ROBERT VENABLE Transit Task Force



Officer Robert Venable was shot and killed when he and other officers attempted to make a gun arrest inside an abandoned building on Tuesday, September 22, 1987.

Police Officer Venable and several other officers were transporting several complainants to the transit base to file a report when they were flagged down by a civilian at approximately 7:40 pm. They were told that men with guns had just entered a building located at 2569 Pitkin Avenue in the East New York section of Brooklyn. When the officers opened the door of the building, they were met with gunfire and Officer Venable was shot in the head.

He succumbed to his injuries three hours later at Brookdale Hospital.

The suspects were later apprehended after a fierce gun battle, in which they barricaded themselves in a third floor apartment at the location.

The suspect who shot Officer Venable had been out of prison on parole for 42 days. He was convicted of second degree murder and sentenced to 25 years to life. He received an additional 12 1/2 years for drug possession. He will be eligible for parole in 2024.

Police Officer Robert Venable was 35 years old and had served with the Police Department for three years. He was survived by his daughter, Januari and his mother, Cordelia.

