

FALLEN FINEST

POLICE OFFICER MICHAEL J. BUCZEK 34 Precinct



On Tuesday, October 18, 1988, Police Officer Michael Buczek was shot and killed when he and his partner attempted to arrest suspects on a drug charge in Washington Heights section of Manhattan.

At 9:45 pm, Officer Buczek and his partner were completing a radio assignment at a building on 161st Street near Broadway. As they exited the building, the officers observed several men engaging in suspicious activity and believed they were involved in a drug transaction. The officers approached and the males fled. During the chase, one male turned and fired at the officers, striking Officer Buczek in the chest. His partner returned fire and then attempted to render aid to Officer Buczek.

Officer Buczek was quickly rushed to Columbia-Presbyterian Hospital where he expired a short time later.

The suspects immediately fled to the Dominican Republic where one later died in police custody awaiting extradition and a second was apprehended by U.S. Marshals in 2000. The third suspect was apprehended in the Dominican Republic in May 2002. On June 19, 2003, two of the suspects were sentenced to 25 years to life in prison.

Police Officer Michael J. Buczek was 24 years old and served the Police Department for more than 3 years. He was survived by his wife, Christina; his parents, Ted and Josephine; his brother, Walter and his sister, Mary Jo.

On the same night, less than 3 hours earlier, Police Officer Christopher Hoban was also killed in the line of duty in a separate incident. Their funeral services were held jointly.

