

FALLEN FINEST

POLICE OFFICER ROBERT E. MACHATE Brooklyn South Task Force



On Friday, March 3, 1989, Police Officer Robert E. Machate was shot and killed while investigating the suspicious behavior of two males who were in an automobile.

Shortly before 1:00 am, Officer Machate, and his partner, assigned to plainclothes duty, approached a vehicle occupied by two males possibly connected to a dispute involving several men which occurred minutes earlier. As they were questioning the two males, on E.23rd Street near Newkirk Avenue in the Flatbush section of Brooklyn, a fierce struggle erupted between the two officers and the suspects. One of the suspects was able to gain control of Officer Machate's service weapon and shot him. The bullet entered Officer Machate's left side, just below his bulletproof vest.

Numerous police units converged on the scene in response to a signal "10-13" broadcast by Machate's partner and Officer Machate was rushed to Kings County Hospital.

Despite extraordinary efforts by the medical staff, Officer Machate expired from his injuries.

The suspected shooter fled but was quickly apprehended hiding in a nearby basement and charged with murder. He was later acquitted of the murder charge, but convicted of Criminal Possession of a Weapon and Escape.

Police Officer Robert E. Machate served with the New York City Police Department for 2 years and 6 months; he was 25 years old. He was survived by his wife, Grace Ann who was six months pregnant with their daughter Nicole Marie at the time, his parents, Vivian and Robert; his sister, Vivian; and his brother, Thomas who also served as an NYPD police officer.

