

FALLEN FINEST

PATROLMAN WILLIAM J. KENNEDY 10 Precinct



On Friday, October 15th, 1993, Patrolman William J. Kennedy died from a gunshot wound he received 42 years earlier while escorting a psychiatric patient to the hospital. He was 72 years old.

Patrolman Kennedy and his partner were assigned to bring an emotionally disturbed person to Bellevue Hospital on Wednesday, February 6th, 1952. At approximately 6:30 am, while in the hospital waiting room, the man grabbed a chair and struck a third patrolman with it.

During the scuffle that ensued, the man was able to gain control of the third patrolman's service weapon. He fired all six rounds from it at the officers, wounding Patrolman Kennedy in the neck and paralyzing him from the waist down. The other officers, though injured, were able to subdue the perpetrator at the scene.

Patrolman Kennedy lived over 42 years with extremely disabling injuries which eventually caused his death. The case was ruled a homicide and reopened by the 10th Precinct Detective Squad.

At the time of the incident, Patrolman William J. Kennedy was 30 years old and had served the Department for more than eight years. He is survived by his son, Donald, who retired from the NYPD as a Detective, Second Grade, after 39 years of service.

