

FALLEN FINEST

POLICE OFFICER NICHOLAS R. DEMUTIIS 106 Precinct



On January 25, 1994, Police Officer Nicholas R. DeMutiis died as a result of injuries sustained hours earlier in a vehicle collision when attempting to block in a suspect who was fleeing from police.

A little after 11 pm, as Officer DeMutiis was off-duty and on his way to work in his private vehicle, he observed officers pursuing a stolen vehicle eastbound on Liberty Avenue in the Ozone Park section of Queens. To block the path of the suspect, Officer DeMutiis positioned his car at the intersection of 102nd Street and Liberty Avenue. The suspect sped through the intersection, ramming into Officer DeMutiis' car on the driver's side at 70 miles per hour. The collision propelled DeMutiis' vehicle into a steel pillar supporting the elevated train tracks above Liberty Avenue.

Emergency Services Units responded to extricate Officer DeMutiis and he was rushed to Jamaica Hospital where, two hours later, he expired as result of his injuries.

The suspect was arrested and charged with murder, driving while intoxicated, grand larceny (auto) and possession of a controlled substance. He was sentenced to 10 to 20 years in prison.

At the NYPD Medal Day ceremony in 1995, Officer DeMutiis was posthumously awarded the New York City Police Department's Purple Shield Medal. This was the year of inception for the Purple Shield Medal.

Police Officer Nicholas R. DeMutiis served with the New York City Police Department for 10 years and 6 months and was 31 years old. He was survived by his wife, Maria; their son, Nicholas; and his parents, Rita and Nicholas as well as his brothers, John and Al: a retired NYPD Police Officer.

