

FALLEN FINEST

POLICE OFFICER CHARLES ODDO Highway Unit No. 2

On Saturday afternoon, February 17, 1996, Police Officer Charles Oddo was struck and killed by a Sports Utility Vehicle while re-routing traffic from a parkway after an oil truck overturned.



Officer Oddo was dispatched to assist at the scene of the accident in the merge lane of the Gowanus Expressway and the Belt Parkway in the Sunset Park section of Brooklyn. Upon arrival, he strategically placed his police car to block the ramp to the Gowanus and then exited his vehicle to direct motorists off the Parkway.

At approximately 2:15 pm, after setting up flares, using hand signals and giving verbal directions to motorists, he was struck by an SUV operated by an unlicensed driver. He sustained multiple blunt trauma injuries throughout his body and internally, including major head injuries. Officer Oddo was flown to Bellevue Hospital and underwent two hours of surgery before succumbing to his injuries.

The driver of the vehicle that struck Officer Oddo was arrested and charged in connection with his death.

On September 25, 1996, Officer Oddo was posthumously awarded the New York City Police Department's Purple Shield Medal and in 2000, the entire 65th to 67th Street Interchange on the Belt Parkway was renamed "Police Officer Charles Oddo Interchange."

Police Officer Charles Oddo was 33 years old and served with the New York City Police Department for 5 years and 4 months. He was survived by his parents, Rose and Joseph – a retired Suffolk County Police Department Highway Sergeant; his brother, Louis; and his sister, Maria.

