

# FALLEN FINEST

## **POLICE OFFICER NEIL A. FORSTER** 50 Precinct

**O**n Thursday, December 11, 1997, Police Officer Neil A. Forster died of injuries he sustained one year earlier when he was struck by a vehicle being operated by an intoxicated driver.

On Monday, December 9, 1996 at approximately 3:45 am, Officer Forster and his partner responded to an automobile accident between a tractor-trailer truck and a sports utility vehicle on the Major Deegan Expressway near West 230th Street. When they arrived at the scene, the officers determined they needed to lay out flares to divert traffic off the Expressway. Almost immediately after exiting his patrol car, Officer Forster and the patrol car were struck from behind by a vehicle being operated by an intoxicated male.

Officer Forster was thrown approximately fifty feet and received multiple traumatic injuries including severe injuries to both of his legs and head. He was rushed to Jacobi Medical Center in extremely critical condition. As surgeons fought to save Officer Forster's life, the decision was made to amputate his left leg.

A year after the accident, Officer Forster became seriously ill due to his injuries and died.

In June 1997, Officer Forster received the New York City Police Department's Purple Shield Medal - awarded to reflect Gallantry, Bravery and Extraordinary Fidelity.

Police Officer Neil A. Forster was 30 years old and served the New York City Police Department for 2 years and 6 months. He was survived by his mother, Linda; his father, Ray; his wife, Larisa and their son, Benjamin.

