

FALLEN FINEST

POLICE OFFICER WILLIAM RIVERA 78 Precinct



Police Officer William Rivera died as a result of injuries he sustained when he fell from a fire escape while pursuing a burglary suspect. He succumbed to his injuries several weeks later.

On Saturday, October 2, 2004 at about 7:30 pm, Officer Rivera and his partner responded to a report of a ringing burglar alarm at 200 3rd Street, on the border of the Park Slope section of Brooklyn. When the officers arrived, they observed an open door and a suspect fleeing to the roof. Officer Rivera and his partner proceeded to the roof of the building. During the pursuit, Officer Rivera lost his footing while on a fire escape and fell at least 20 feet to the ground. He sustained multiple injuries, including injuries to his back and legs that required several surgeries to repair.

The burglary suspect escaped and has not been apprehended or identified.

On Wednesday, November 24, 2004, Officer Rivera suffered a massive seizure while recovering at home from an operation to repair one of his injuries. He was taken to Wyckoff Hospital where he expired.

Officer Rivera was posthumously awarded the New York City Police Department's Medal of Honor for his actions.

Police Officer William Rivera was 35 years old and served with the New York City Police Department for 12 years. He was survived by his daughter, Amanda and her mother, Maritza.

