

# FALLEN FINEST

## **DETECTIVE FIRST GRADE BRIAN P. SIMONSEN** 102 Precinct Detective Squad

**O**n the evening of Tuesday February 12, 2019, Detective Brian P. Simonsen was shot and killed while responding to a 911 call of an armed robbery.



At approximately 6:10 pm, callers reported an armed robbery in progress at a cell phone store located on Atlantic Avenue and 120th Street in the Richmond Hill Section of Queens. Reports stated that a male suspect had forced store employees to the rear of the store at gunpoint. Detective Simonsen and his sergeant responded along with other patrol units and entered the premise. Once inside, a man matching the suspects' description emerged from the back of the store and pointed what appeared to be a handgun at the officers. When the suspect advanced toward them, the officers discharged their weapons as they exited the store. As a result of the suspects' actions, Detective Simonsen was fatally struck in the chest by a police bullet during the gunfire. The sergeant sustained a gunshot wound to his leg.

Detective Simonsen was rushed to Jamaica Hospital but succumbed to his injuries.

The suspect, a career criminal with many prior arrests, was injured in the shooting and arrested.

Police Commissioner James P. O'Neill posthumously promoted Simonsen to Detective First Grade at the funeral on Wednesday, February 20, 2019.

Detective Simonsen, 42, achieved great distinction during his 19-year career. He worked exclusively in the 102 Precinct where he made hundreds of arrests; most of them felonies. He was held in the highest regard by the public, his co-workers and supervisors, and was elected the Detectives' Endowment Association delegate for his command.

Detective Brian P. Simonsen was survived by his wife, Leanne Marie; his mother, Linda; and his maternal grandfather, Vernon.

