

## **Ambler Borough Township Officer Raymond Moscardelli E.O.W 1/20/1977**

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Officer Raymond Moscardelli grew up in Ambler Borough and served his county faithfully until making the ultimate sacrifice on January 20<sup>th</sup>, 1977. In his youth he served as an altar boy at St. Josephs Elementary School and was appointed to the school safety patrol officer, dedicating his time to the safety of his peers. The late Ambler Police Chief Frank Wack believed this experience made a lasting impression on Officer Moscardelli, leading to his interest in police work. After graduating from Ambler High School, Officer Moscardelli joined the U.S. Navy for 4 years and returned to Ambler Borough. He worked for the Radio Corporation of America (RCA) in the electronics department, utilizing skills he obtained through his time with the military. After RCA closed its electronics department, Officer Moscardelli worked several odd jobs before dedicating himself to protecting the community, calling on his early interest in law enforcement.

Officer Moscardelli was hired by the Ambler Police Department on April 9<sup>th</sup>, 1973. He was a member of the K-9 corps at the Ambler Borough Police Department. Officer Moscardelli was involved with the Fraternal Order of Police Lodge 14 pistol league; he won a number of shooting trophies and is remembered as an accomplished marksman. Shortly before Officer Moscardelli's death, he had taken and passed the Sergeant's exam and was on his way to a successful career as a Sergeant for the Ambler Borough Police Department. While working his shift on January 20<sup>th</sup>, 1977, Officer Moscardelli suffered a massive heart attack which took his life. Officer Moscardelli was survived by his wife Joyce, his four children; Anthony, Carol, Raymond and Gina, his father and mother Anthony and Carolina, and his two sisters, Claire Melograno and Mary Regina Most.

District Attorney Ferman has dedicated 26 plaques to date in memory of Fallen Heroes throughout Montgomery County. Three generations of Officer Moscardelli's family attended the ceremony. DA Ferman explained: "We know policing is dangerous. Every single day our men and women go out in uniform, unaware if they will return home. The dangers of law enforcement aren't just the dangers out on the street. This job has physical, mental, and emotional challenges that take a toll on our officers in many different ways. It is important that we recognize and understand these dangers that so that we may protect our officers just as they protect us. Today is a fitting reminder of all of the challenges of policing. It is an honor to be here to recognize Ray, his family, and his sacrifice. When you think about legacy and what is left behind, it is clear that Ray left behind a beautiful legacy in his family. I know he would be just as proud of all of you, as you are of him."

Founder of the Fallen Hero Cop Plaque program, Jimmy Binns, has memorialized close to 300 Fallen Heroes since beginning the program, with today marking the 272<sup>nd</sup>. Binns explained the importance of sacrifice: "The important message today is to never forget the service of loved ones. We will never forget the family members of fallen officers. The profession that these men and women have chosen is one of the utmost dangerous professions they could have chosen. The purpose of this program is to make sure that these officers know someone has their back. On behalf of my brothers and sisters in blue, we wish you God speed and God bless you."

The Fallen Hero Plaque was sponsored by Ambler Savings Bank, an organization with very close ties to the Ambler Borough Police Department. Roger Zacharia, representing Ambler Bank,

said: "Officer Raymond Moscardelli passed away a long time ago. Ambler Savings Bank has a long and special relationship with the Ambler Police Department. They watch our back 24/7, 365 days a year, and we are very proud of that relationship. I am happy to support the family and service of Officer Raymond Moscardelli, and hope this plaque will be a reminder of his service for many years to come.

Ambler Borough Police Department Chief William Foley was a part time officer in 1977, when Officer Moscardelli died. Chief Foley said: "As I look amongst all of my brothers in blue here, many of whom I started my career with, and Joyce's husband as well, I see the theme of family. The recurring theme for Ambler Borough is family, we are very tightknit. I am very heartfelt to see the support that we have here. On that tragic day, it was family he came home to visit. He stopped at home and had a tragic accident, with his family there. All those years ago, Ambler Savings Bank set up a trust fund for the family, which we are grateful for. We do this because in our community we watch each other's backs.

Ambler Borough Township Mayor Jeanne Sorg addressed the audience: "Officers chose to come to Ambler because they want a community, a family. It is indeed true when we lose one of our police officers the entire community loses a family member and for us this hurts like when you lose family. Thank you all for coming out to celebrate the loss of one of our family members."

Officer Moscardelli's son Ray, flanked by his sisters Gina McDonald and Carol Davies, spoke at the ceremony. Raymond said: "My father spent the majority of his life living in or around Ambler Borough. It was his home, he knew it and its street and its people. He was well liked and respected by everyone who came to know him...He loved being a police officer and took his oath to protect the citizens of Ambler very seriously. My father worked the night shift. Around 7 am on January 20<sup>th</sup>, 1977, he was winding down his tour to head home to his family. The Borough was buried under a foot of snow at the time. As Raymond was well known to do, before returning to the station, he stopped to help dig out a stranded motorist in the storm. As fate would have it, this would be his last and final call of duty. Just thirty minutes later the world would lose Patrolman Raymond Moscardelli to a massive heart attack inside our family home. Unfortunately our father never got to meet his nieces and his nephew. The saddest of all, he never got to know his five grandchildren. They will never get the privilege of knowing their Pop-Pop, as he would have liked to have been called. Our father will always live on in our hearts and we are so proud to know that his sacrifice for the Ambler community, through this plaque, will be remembered as well."