

THE TOLEDO POLICE DEPARTMENT

A solemn obligation



Patrolman Harvey O'Neill
E.O.W. November 8, 1936

“It is with deep regret and much sorrow that I announce the death of Patrolman Harvey L. O’Neill, who was killed in an accident while on duty at 1:50 this a.m.” - Chief R. E. Allen.

In the early morning hours of Sunday, November 8, 1936, Officer O’Neill pursued a speeding Yellow Cab west on Monroe Street at Bancroft Street. A Ford V-8 traveling east on Monroe Street at about 25 mph turned left between the cab and Officer O’Neill’s motorcycle. Officer O’Neill struck the Ford at an estimated 60 mph. The driver of the Ford admitted to having “one whiskey and two glasses of beer prior to the accident,” though numerous witnesses testified that he did not appear intoxicated at the scene of the accident. A survey of the traffic light control later determined that the light at Bancroft and Monroe Streets was not working at the time of the accident.

Officer O’Neill was appointed on May 16, 1930, and except for 19 days in May of 1934 when he was laid off “because of lack of funds,” he served the city faithfully until his untimely death. He had been a motorcycle officer for only six months, and the night of his accident was only his second on the midnight shift.

Officer O’Neill resided at 3652 Wallwerth Drive and left behind a wife, Ruth, and two young sons. His mother, Mary, was the matron of the police women’s bureau at the time of his death and his father, Eugene, had also been a Toledo Police Officer.

Harvey O'Neill

TO PROTECT AND SERVE