

TOLEDO AREA POLICE MEMORIAL SERVICE

A solemn obligation



Patrolman Harold Stevens
E.O.W. July 3, 1948

“Two persons were killed and three injured yesterday when a police patrol car, on an emergency run to Mercy Hospital, collided with a passenger car at Monroe and Seventeenth Streets.”

A vehicle had failed to yield the right of way to the emergency vehicle and struck Officer Stevens and his partner as they rushed a stabbing victim to Mercy Hospital. The impact caused both vehicles to overturn and Stevens was thrown from the vehicle.

Officer Stevens was appointed to the Police Department on March 16, 1922. During the depression of the 1930's, he suffered from an illness that he tried to hide from the Police Department for fear of losing his job. In the midst of the Great Depression, he tried to hang onto what he had. He was reprimanded several times for what looked like careless performance of his duties. The punishment at that time was to add three extra hours onto his workday, sometimes for weeks on end.

Ill and fatigued, he made no argument in his defense. After he was dismissed in 1935, the truth about his condition was made known and his name was cleared. Officer Stevens was treated and returned as a valuable member of the Toledo Police Department. “He won the praise of his superior officers in February, 1946, when he chased and shot a car theft suspect in the 1900 block of Erie Street.”

Stevens resided at 722 1/2 Main Street and left behind a wife and three children.

Harold Stevens

WEDNESDAY, MAY 16, 2012