

THE TOLEDO POLICE DEPARTMENT

A solemn obligation



Patrolman Donald Brown
E.O.W. June 12, 1962

Mr. Oliver Nickerson, 52, arrived home at 1914 North 14th Street around 4:30 p.m. after stopping for a drink after work. He began an altercation with his 17-year-old son, which left the boy unconscious. He then struck his wife in the head, took a shotgun from the closet, and threatened to kill his entire family.

The family escaped the house. When the police arrived, one of the boys warned the police that his dad was drunk and had a shotgun. While Officer William Boyle, whose brother Walter had been killed one year prior, called on the radio for more help, Officer Hays approached the house and was struck by a shotgun blast. Officer Brown arrived shortly after, ran up to the house and fired on the suspect. The suspect fired on Brown, striking him. Moments later, Officer Boyle was also hit.

Officers surrounded the house and when Nickerson again attempted to fire on officers, he was shot and taken into custody.

Officer Hays had refused to be moved from the scene “until we got him.” He recovered from his wounds, as did William Boyle, who lost the sight in his right eye as a result of his injury. Officer Brown was killed.

Officer Brown was married and had been a police officer for seven years. Two years prior, on June 19, 1960, Brown had faced another man who was holding his family hostage in the home with a shotgun. He and Sergeant Lautz were able to quietly enter the house from the rear and overpower the man to effect an arrest.

Donald Brown

TO PROTECT AND SERVE