

# THE TOLEDO POLICE DEPARTMENT

*A solemn obligation*



**Patrolman William Miscannon  
E.O.W. September 18, 1970**

A letter from Chief Robert Duck to Mr. Emanuel Friedman in Washington, D.C., reads in part: "Patrolman Miscannon was a uniformed officer of the Toledo Police Division and reported for duty on the 11:00 p.m. to 7:00 a.m. relief on September 17, 1970. He worked a patrol wagon with his partner, Patrolman Walter Shaw. Their duties were to patrol a designated district and their particular district was a high crime area. . . ."

"Shortly before 2:00 a.m. on September 18, 1970, Patrolmen Miscannon and Shaw parked their wagon on Junction Avenue near Dorr Street. Patrolman Shaw entered a nearby restaurant to obtain some lunch and Patrolman Miscannon stayed in the wagon (he was in the passenger's seat.) Within a short time, Patrolman Shaw returned to the driver's seat of the wagon and prepared to drive off."

Before the two could pull away, a suspect walked up to the wagon, said something that could not be understood, pulled out a long-barreled handgun, and shot Officer Miscannon point-blank, hitting him in the head. He never regained consciousness. The shooting, which occurred near the Black Panthers headquarters, ignited racial tensions within the city.

Officer Miscannon had been a police officer for three years. In his letter announcing the loss of Officer Miscannon, Chief of Police Anthony Bosch stated " . . . this is the most cold-blooded taking of a human life without rhyme or reason in the history of this division."

*William Miscannon*

**TO PROTECT AND SERVE**