



NEWS RELEASE

HOWARD COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF POLICE OFFICE OF PUBLIC AFFAIRS

For Release: Dec. 8, 2008

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Howard County Police Officer Dies Off-Duty

Howard County Police are mourning the loss of a 19-year veteran who died while off-duty over the weekend. Police Officer First Class Patrick H. McDonald, 46, was found unresponsive in his Laurel home Saturday. He was transported to Howard County General Hospital, where he was pronounced dead. The cause of death is unknown at this time, but police do not suspect foul play.

McDonald was recently assigned as a patrol officer in the police department's northern district after spending many years patrolling the southern district. He also spent time as a detective investigating property crimes in the early 1990's.

"The loss of one of our own challenges every member of the police department," said Police Chief William J. McMahon. "Pat dedicated nearly two decades of his life to this agency and this community. We are grateful for his service and saddened by his death."

In May of this year, McDonald received the Maryland Retailers Association's Law Enforcement Award for his outstanding work at the Mall in Columbia. In 2007, he arrested dozens of shoplifters and recovered thousands of dollars in merchandise.

During his career, McDonald was named Police Officer of the Month twice and was nominated six additional times. He was awarded a unit citation with his patrol platoon in 2005 and received numerous memorandums of recognition throughout his years of service.

McDonald married his wife Nicole eight months ago and leaves behind four stepchildren.

The arrangements to memorialize PFC McDonald are as follows:

Viewing: Thursday, December 11, 2008 2-4 p.m. and 7-9 p.m.
Gary L. Kaufman Funeral Home, 7250 Washington Blvd., Elkrigde

Funeral: Friday, December 12, 2008 11 a.m.
Gary L. Kaufman Funeral Home, 7250 Washington Blvd., Elkrigde

Police do not expect the events to impact traffic. In lieu of flowers, contributions may be made to the Howard County Police Foundation, 3410 Court House Drive, Ellicott City, MD, 21043, Attn: Lt. Michele Denton.

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