



NEWS RELEASE

HOWARD COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF POLICE OFFICE OF PUBLIC AFFAIRS

For Release: September 11, 2006

Contact: Sherry Llewellyn
(410) 313-2236

Former Howard County Police Chief Dies at 72

Paul H. Rappaport Served as Chief from 1979 to 1987

Former Howard County Police Chief Paul H. Rappaport died yesterday following an illness. Rappaport served as the department's sixth chief from 1979 to 1987, after a 28-year career with the Maryland State Police.

"Paul Rappaport was known as a kind-hearted gentleman," said acting Police Chief William McMahon. "We are greatly saddened by his death. Our heartfelt sympathies go out to his family from the entire Howard County Police family."

Rappaport joined the Howard County Police Department to serve as chief in January 1979 after retiring from the state police as a major. During his tenure as chief, he created the take-home car program for officers who live in the county, increasing the department's visibility in the community. He also had a significant impact on the future leadership of the police department—he hired nearly every member of the agency's current command staff.

Officers and civilian employees who served under Rappaport remember him as a quiet and reserved leader.

"Chief Rappaport was a genuinely nice person," said Joan Cook, the department's longest-tenured civilian employee. "I worked for him directly while he was chief and he always made people feel like family. He didn't just want to know the employees, he made sure to know their spouses and families, too."

During his career, Rappaport served as a military police officer in the U.S. Army, was elected president of the Maryland Chiefs of Police Association and practiced law after his retirement from police work.

Last month, Rappaport joined his former colleagues for "National Night Out," a crime-fighting community event in the county. He also joined in the celebration of the Howard County Police Department's 50th anniversary in 2002.

Rappaport died yesterday at Mercy Medical Center in Baltimore. His family includes wife, Margaret; daughter Leslie Rosenthal and her husband Jay; daughter Amy Rappaport; son Glenn Shoemaker and his wife Roseann; and grandchildren, Elizabeth and Sarah Shoemaker and the late Ashley Beth Rosenthal. Rappaport's funeral is scheduled for Wednesday, Sept. 13 at 10 a.m., at Sol Levinson and Bros. Funeral Home, 8900 Reisterstown Road, Pikesville, Md.

###