

Lower Gwynedd Township Officer Richard Lawn Jr. E.O.W. 7/28/2003

Officer Richard Lawn Jr. made his ultimate sacrifice on July 28th, 200 after he was killed in a single-car automobile accident while responding to an emergency call. A deer ran into the side of Officer Lawn's patrol car, causing him to lose control of the vehicle and strike a utility pole. He was transported to a local hospital where he was admitted and observed for two days before being released. The following day, while at home, Officer Lawn Jr. collapsed and died following treatment for the injuries he sustained in the crash. A fifteen year veteran of the Lower Gwynedd Police Department, Officer Lawn Jr. was a dedicated patrolman. The Lawn family was in attendance at the ceremony including wife Laurie, daughters; Katelyn, Kelly and Megan, and son Connor.

Officer Lawn Jr. was a beloved husband and devoted father to each of his four children. He was the eldest son of Richard and Mary Lawn and one of eleven brothers and sisters. When off-duty, Officer Lawn Jr. coached sports teams at Saint Rosa of Lima and Nor-Gwyn Little League. Officer Lawn Jr. was an avid Penn State football fan as well as a fan of every sports team his children were members of. A 1981 graduate of Lansdale Catholic High School, he held a bachelor's degree in Criminal Justice from West Chester University, and was a member of the Fraternal Order of Police Montgomery County Lodge 14.

At the ceremony, District Attorney Ferman said, "We are here to honor the memory of a dedicated public servant who made the ultimate sacrifice for his community. We dedicate this plaque together, as a community, which will serve as a daily reminder of an incredible person". The Fallen Hero Plaque program began in Montgomery County in 2007 through collaboration between District Attorney Ferman and Founder James Binns. The program has continued to be a symbol of respect and support for the families of fallen officers as well as current law enforcement officers.

Ed Brant, Lower Gwynedd Supervisors Chairman recalled Officer Lawn Jr. as "being the first on the scene and always there for back-up". Lieutenant Paul Kenny remembers Officer Lawn's love for his family, saying "that's all he talked about". Officer Richard Lawn Jr. will be remembered through this Fallen Hero plaque which will be mounted on the wall of the Lower Gwynedd Police Department as a daily reminder of the sacrifice he made for his community.