

Ty Wayne Deeds

January 14, 1952 – November 6, 1984

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Hinton, West Virginia Tuesday, November 13, 1984

20 Cents

Hundreds Attend Hinton Police Chief Ty Wayne Deeds Funeral



Ty Wayne Deeds

By Fred Long

The church was full. Hundreds had gathered in the Hinton United Methodist Church for the funeral of Hinton Police Chief Ty Wayne Deeds. Law enforcement officers of this county and throughout the state filled one section of the church. Their badges clothed with a black ribbon, a sign of sorrow and grief for the loss of a friend and fellow officer. The casket was closed. The United States flag draped over it.

Ty Wayne Deeds died Tuesday morning, November 6th about 7:50 a.m., in a tragic hunting accident when his rifle discharged while he was crawling through a barbed wire fence.

Chief Deeds and two friends, Garland Anderson and Ralph Trout, Jr., were rabbit hunting in Greenbrier County near Fort Springs in a remote area off the Mount Vernon Road. Deeds attempted to cross a

fence when his .410 gauge shotgun misfired, shooting him below his right breast.

Mr. Trout ran to a nearby farm house for help, but because of the area it was almost an hour before paramedics arrived. Deeds was pronounced dead on arrival at the Greenbrier Valley Hospital, at Fairlea.

Thursday afternoon, Steve Meadows, of the E. M. Meadows Funeral Home, ushered the last of the estimated 500 to their seat.

Rev. Dr. Richard L. Crickard, officiating over the funeral services, read, at the request of his wife Jan Deeds, the 23rd Psalm and selections of John 14.

Mayor James A. Leslie gave the eulogy. Mayor Leslie said:

"Ty Wayne Deeds, 1952 - 1984. Thirty-two years; a young man indeed. He was a boy, a son. He was a brother, a man. He was a husband, a father. And, he was a policeman, a friend.

"Ty Wayne Deeds was a policeman. He loved it! He was not the kind of policeman that you read about in books or that you see on a TV show. He had his own style--He got the job done his way.

"I do not believe the man feared anything.

"Ty Wayne was an honest man. He didn't want anyone to feel cheated, especially the City of Hinton.

"He worked so hard as Chief of Police to make sure the job he did was good, right and pleasing. After the present City Administration had been in office about two months, Ty Wayne expressed to me that he might not be the best Chief of Police, but He sure was trying hard to be.

History will, of course, prove that he was one of our City's finest.

"But, I do not want to leave you an eulogy of Ty Wayne Deeds that would be praiseworthy of him only as a policeman or only as a Chief of Police.

"For most everyone when they think of Ty Wayne will surely remember him as a policeman.

"But, instead, I want to leave you an eulogy of the man as I came to know him during the past 16 months.

"Because I looked beyond that rough and tough exterior. I had to. When I would see him squat or get down on his knees to laugh and play as a father with his two little girls, or, when he would swell up with pride and smile while exchanging stories with two of my sons.

"Ty Wayne's finest achievement was that smile. You would see that mountain of a man walking toward you with that smile of confidence, happy with life, knowing that he was on top of it all.

"Ty Wayne leaves us with that thought...that though that radiance is gone. The strength of that smile remains behind."

At the close of the services 41 law enforcement officers and each member of the City Council stood side-by-side forming two lines outside the church. Members of each county law enforcement agency, City policemen B. B. Angell and Gary Miller, Sheriffs deputy Ron Hatcher and Bill Jeffries, State Trooper M. R. Cyphers and Fred Butler, and Department of Natural Resource officers Larry Case and Bob Nahdil, pallbearers, carried the flag covered casket between them. The 41 police officers stood at

attention and saluted as the casket passed by them.

The funeral procession, 58 cars in length, drove slowly to the Restwood Memorial Gardens. At the cemetery City police officers Tom Cobb, Glen Cook, Gary Teabo, Larry Keaton, and C. & O. Special Agent Bob Wheeler, Chairman of the Hinton Police Civil Service Board, under the direction of Johnny Wygal, fired volley three times as Ron Hartwell played taps. Bill Jeffries and Ron Hatcher folded the flag and handed it to Mayor Leslie. Leslie presented it to Jan Deeds.

Ty Wayne Deeds was born in Hinton on January 14, 1952, the son of Zonita Lipscomb, of Hinton, and the late Riger M. Deeds. He was appointed Hinton Police Chief July 1, 1983 by the Mayor and City Council. He had been a member of the police dept. since 1974. His wife Janice Reed Deeds, and two daughters, Alishia and Kerri Lynn Deeds, survive him.

Other survivors include two sisters, Teresa Spicer of Jumping Branch and Rogena Davidson of Athens, Ga.; maternal grandmother, Zelda Reed, of Hinton; and paternal grandmother, Madeline Deeds of Clifton Forge, Va.

Ty Wayne Deeds had lived most of his life in Hinton, two years spent in the U. S. Army. He was well known and highly respected. An industrious, honest, kind hearted man. An accommodating neighbor, a true friend, a kind, gentle and affectionate parent and husband.

He was a member of the Hinton United Methodist Church and was a member of the National Association of Chief of Police.