

Officer Down Memorial: Officer Michael Gordon

Officer Michael Gordon was a police officer with the Harrison District Station of the Chicago Police Department. He had been a police officer for four years before August 8th, 2004, when he was struck and killed by a drunk driver while on patrol in his squad car. Gordon was only thirty years of age when the tragic automobile accident occurred, and his partner was severely injured while the drunk driver also passed away in the accident. The driver was driving under the influence of alcohol, with a blood alcohol content of .177 and ran a red light causing the crash.

Before becoming a police officer, Gordon completed an Associate's degree in Law Enforcement from the College of DuPage and went on to serve in the United States Army. In the army he served as a Military Police Officer for five years touring Bosnia and Korea in efforts to keep peace. After an honorable discharge from the military, Gordon began his law enforcement career with the Riverside Police Department in 2000. This position was not a surprise to anyone, as Gordon's father was an Assistant Chief at that department and his brother is still an active-duty police officer within a different sector of that PD. While at Riverside, Officer Gordon received much praise and acclaim from the community and department. He was admired for his dedication to serving the community and many citizens wrote to him, thanking him for his work and for his kindness. He was so well loved by the department he was even awarded officer of the month three separate times during his short two years with the Riverside Police Department.

While his success was evident at the small department, Gordon moved to the Chicago Police department in 2002 to take on more dangerous and challenging incidents and cases. He quickly rose to the top of the ranks in the big city, earning the name "Super Cop" by his most frequent partner. This was especially commendable due to the fact that he took on patrol and cases in the rough West Side of Chicago, known to be one of the most dangerous parts at the time of not only Chicago but the entire country. To exemplify his extraordinary crime fighting abilities, one of his records was forty-four felony arrests in just sixty days. According to his father, Gordon achieved his two dreams of being a soldier and being a Chicago police officer. Further, he accomplished more in his thirty years than some accomplish in a lifetime, and he was loved by all.

Gordon is survived by his wife, his four children, his brother, and his parents. He was said to be a big family man and was devoted to his wife and children. He also was a huge Cubs fan, as many Illinois natives are, following the team from when he was young up through his adulthood. A few days before his death, Gordon told his family that he had made the "arrest of a lifetime" which gave his friends and family a small amount of solace knowing he had achieved all he set out to do before his untimely passing. There is little negative information out there on Officer Michael Gordon, which attests to how well loved he was by any who knew him and by the community as a whole. His family and friends started a foundation in his name so that even in death, Gordon could continue to help people and provide aid to those in need.

