



## **TOMMY McNAMARA TRIBUTES**

# **A MEMORIAL TRIBUTE TO A GOOD MAN**

## **BILL MC KECHNIE**

I was taken aback that I had no idea Tom was seriously ill. As I lay in bed trying to sleep, I could not get Tommy out of my mind and the fact that he was gone. Being PBA President I have been involved and participated in more funerals than I like to remember and sure I have been upset by the others, but this was different, and I could not figure out why. Then it struck me, it was because of the man Tom was. After realizing this I knew I had to write about the man I knew and respected greatly, and I wanted to share in sort of a memorial statement why I feel the way I do.

I was PBA president about four years when Tom was appointed so I didn't know him until he became involved in the Emerald Society and only when he became a member of the Bag Pipe Band. Seeing him at Emerald Society meetings but much more at all the Parades, functions and parties at which the War Pipe band appeared. That is when I really began to know Tom.

I think I can best explain Tom and my relationship as well as my respect and admiration for him by telling two personnel experiences that I will never forget. One was my wedding to my loving wife Diane. Diane wanted the bag pipes at our church wedding as well as our reception. At the church Tom played Amazing Grace that had everyone in tears. After the wedding service was the reception which was held at the Water Club in NYC. It was a very fancy place on the East River owned by a Guy from the other side who was a famous restaurateur by the name of Buzzy O'Keefe. Buzz was a friend and had a few very expensive restaurants in NY. You will understand why I say this as I go on. We had a beautiful day, and we were able to have a cocktail reception which was held on the upper deck of the restaurant. After the cocktail reception the bag pipers pipped us into the dining room. Knowing I should take care of the band I asked Buzzy if after they played us into the room they could go back up and have something to eat and drink. He replied. "no problem", I will just make sure there is extra food at the cocktail hour they can eat all day. " Then I asked can I have a barrel of beer up

there for them. Buzz reminded me that he did not use barrels of beer. He said he could serve them bottled beer. Now bottled beer at the water club did not come cheap. I remember sitting at our table I could see the waiters ascending to the upper deck with tray after tray of bottled beer. I thought that the cost of the beer for the band was going to exceed the cost for the entire wedding, lol.

Buzzy was so impressed with the band that he approached me and asked if the band would be able to come down to the restaurant portion of the building and play a few tunes for the patrons dining there? I told him I would ask. I went to Tom, and he said, "no problem." They band went down and played for about a half hour. Buzzy was thrilled and that about covered my cost for the beer.

Now to story two. I am sure you all remember when NYC many years too late NYC finally held a parade welcoming home the vets that served in Vietnam. I was asked by a friend who was on the parade committee if I could ask the bag pipe band to march. I said I will make a call and see. I don't remember who the band master at the time was but whoever it was said of course. They marched and were greeted by cheers the whole route of the parade. After their march I had set up a repast for them at Rosy O'Grady's downtown. When the parade was over, I went there to join them. While there I received a call again from my friend on the parade committee who said they had set up something at the Penta Hotel which was across from Penn Station for the vets who marched to get together. He asked if I thought we could get the bag pipes there. I approached Tommy and without hesitation he got a few of the guys and off we went. I was a little surprised at what I found when I got there. There were some guys getting together with people they hadn't seen since Vietnam then there were others who were still suffering from the effects of the war who were crouched in corners some sobbing some just starring at the wall or floor. It was truly eerie. Tom saw the same thing I did, and he asked me if I thought it would be alright if he played something as a tribute to those who served. I said go ahead. Tom stood on a table and asked that everyone please stand as he played something for all who served. Tom then played God Bless America. Then he announced that he was going to play a special tribute for those who never made it home. He played a beautiful rendition of Amazing Grace the likes of which I had never heard before or since. You could have heard a pin drop and most of those poor souls who were crouched on the floor stood up and came to attention with tears rolling down their faces. It was of the most memorable moments of my life and something I will never forget and just one of the reasons I will never forget Tom McNamara. Rest in Peace my Dear friend. God Bless you!

## **MIKE FANNING**

"I first met Tom McNamara when I joined the Emerald Society Pipes & Drums. It was immediately apparent that Tom was the heart & soul of the band and fostered a brotherhood among its members. Tom was a man of honor and dedication on and off the job and if you were willing to put the work in to make the task at hand better there was nothing he wouldn't do to help. He was dedicated to his family and loved them dearly. I have had the pleasure to travel with Tom and my bandmates across the country and abroad. We had many great adventures. Tom will certainly be missed.

We passed on our way, God be praised, that we met him be life-long or short, we will never forget him. We may have great men, but we will never have better."

## **FRED AMATRANO**

I came on the job with Tommy. He was in my class, but I never worked with him and I don't have any stories.

I liked Tommy very much and I thought he was a GREAT GUY!

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## **ANDY COOK**

D-01 has lost another...

The illustrious Sgt. Tommy McNamara has passed away.

Earlier this morning an email from Mike Carney started to spread the word that 'Tommy Mac' died last night after a serious bout of pancreatitis.

Many people have many stories about the long-time District-01 day-tour Sergeant whom everyone could not help but know, no matter what tour you happened to work.

Sgt. McNamara was at one time, or another, described with just about every adjective anyone could think of. (it was a great comfort to him, no matter if the adjective was complimentary or derogatory.) His hardened outer shell was well formed, and purposely fashioned. It hid a real heart underneath. One fellow Sergeant once described him as a 'crass'. Sgt. Mc Namara couldn't wait to tell as many peers & subordinates as he could. All the usual vulgarities aside, Sgt. Mac seemed to be amused by a word that some in the Transit Police might deem somewhat intellectual.

"I've been called a lot of things, but never that!" he laughed.

...and when Tommy Mac laughed, he was usually surrounded by many others who were also enjoying the dry, and wry, warped sense of humor that caused so many to gather 'round him at whatever District-01 function was being attended.

Sadly, Sgt. McNamara's infamous "Finished List" is now done. No one ever wanted to suffer the indignity of being wrong and being in front of Sgt. McNamara and being told: "You're finished!"

It was an Honor and a Pleasure to know Sgt. McNamara for the greater portion of our careers.

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## **INFORMATIVE ARTICLE**

Look at this article. Very interesting. Feel free to pass on to others.

<https://linkprotect.cudasvc.com/url?a=https%3a%2f%2fnysfocus.com%2f2024%2f07%2f09%2fhow-upstate-retirees-fought-privatized-healthcare-and-won&c=E,1,0Ei3nV40lqIUipggY2625STpJKaKQoDeu1cmv18gyU0XNL4vXJWnTLCHY7sJhImq0WoWiBGGUXs2FF0TtuDTvcxtpvgDydcIWc0Wann0A.,&typo=1>

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# **NYPD CRUISERS GET A NEW SLOGAN: 'FIGHTING CRIME, PROTECTING THE PUBLIC.'**

**NYPD cruisers get a new slogan: 'Fighting crime, protecting the public.' -  
Gothamist**

*IN PROFOUND SORROW  
WE ANNOUNCE THE PASSING OF*



***Jacques Maurice***  
(Retired NYPD Transit Sergeant)

***Viewing will take place:***

Thursday ~ July 18, 2024

3:00 ~ 6:00 p.m.

{Wake service at 6:00 p.m.}

at

**FRANK R. BELL FUNERAL HOME, INC.**

536 Frank & Doris Bell Way

*(formerly Sterling Place, corner of Classon Avenue)*

Brooklyn, New York 11238

(718) 399-2500 ~ Fax: 399-2565

[www.frankrbellfh.com](http://www.frankrbellfh.com)

***Funeral Mass will take place:***

Friday ~ July 19, 2024

9:30 a.m.

at

**ST. PETER CLAVER CHURCH**

21 Claver Place

Brooklyn, New York 11238

(718) 574-5772

**INTERMENT:**

Cypress Hills Cemetery

*(Exit 3 off Jackie Robinson Parkway)*

Brooklyn, New York

Friday ~ July 19, 2024

***Repast:***

**ST. PETER CLAVER CHURCH**

FOLLOWING THE INTERMENT



# LINE OF DUTY MEMORIAL SERVICE

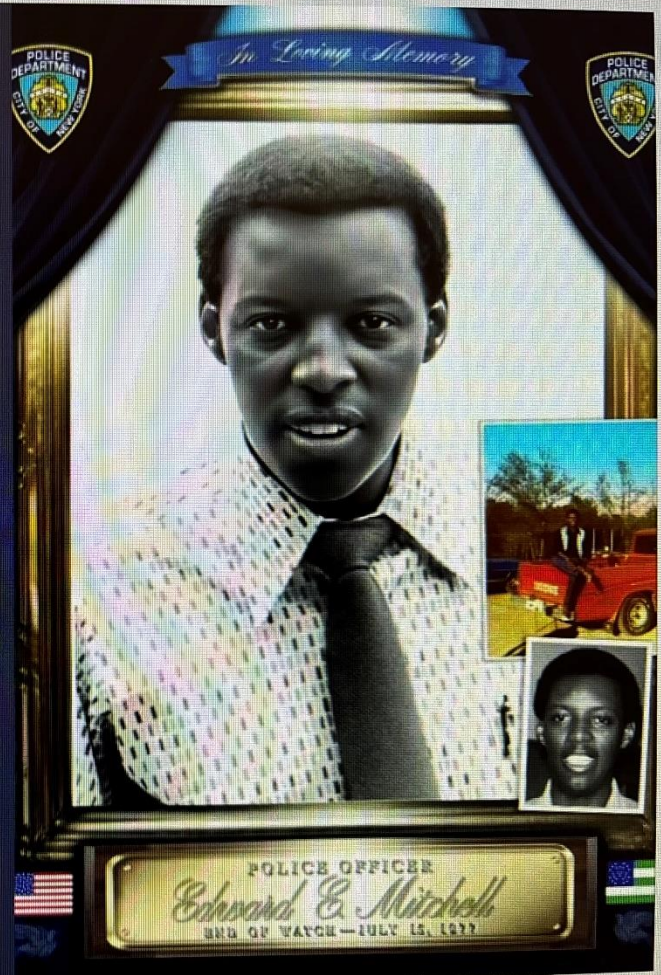
## POLICE OFFICER EDWARD E. MITCHELL

MONDAY JULY 15TH, 2024  
START TIME 1100AM  
34TH PRECINCT  
4295 BROADWAY  
NEW YORK , NY 10033

FOOD AND BEVERAGES SERVED DIRECTLY  
AFTER THE SERVICE IN THE MUSTER ROOM

**EOW 07/15/1977**

**47 YEAR ANNIVERSARY**



RETIRED LIEUTENANTS ASSOCIATION NYPD

## City petitions state's high court to back Medicare switch Retiree arguments 'misguided,' appeals motion argues

BY RICHARD KHAVKINE, the Chief, June 29, 2024

The Adams administration has petitioned the Court of Appeals to sanction its effort to shift 250,000 retired municipal workers to a privately administered Medicare Advantage plan.

In an appeals motion filed Thursday with the state's highest court, city attorneys argue that municipal retirees and their representatives have been "misguided" in trying to preserve their current coverage and outline "dire consequences" if the city is barred from instituting the switch.

An Appellate Division panel last month found that stripping the retirees of their traditional Medicare and Medigap coverage would break long-ago promises by city officials.

"With no good options remaining to maintain the same quality of healthcare while also responsibly stewarding taxpayer funds, the consequence may very well be more impactful changes affecting both retirees and employees," the city's 11-page motion says.

Adams administration officials have argued that shifting the retirees to a privately run plan, a proposal that first got traction during the de Blasio administration, would save the city as much as \$600 million annually. Those savings, derived from federal subsidies available to Medicare Advantage plans, would in turn help replenish the city's Joint Health Insurance Premium Stabilization Fund, which supports unions' welfare-fund benefits, among other purposes.

City officials have said that the Medicare Advantage plan would improve on government-run Medicare, including by offering a lower deductible, a cap on out-of-pocket expenses and new benefits, such as transportation, fitness program and wellness incentives.

Retiree organizations have been vociferous in their opposition to the administration's plan, calling private-plan provisions inferior, at best, to current coverage. They note that unlike regular Medicare, for-profit Medicare Advantage plans typically require pre-approvals. They and their advocates maintain that private health-care insurers, rather than medical practitioners, can essentially dictate care, since plan administrators often have the final say on which procedures will be

covered. Private providers' profit motives by definition outweigh consumers' health concerns, the retirees say.

### **'Obscure statements'**

The city's motion argues that it would have been absurd for city officials to guarantee a Medicare supplemental plan for lifetimes, as plaintiffs, among them retirees and the New York City Organization of Public Service Retirees, have maintained and with whom courts have so far concurred.

City attorneys also argue that any such assurances of lifetime coverage were not made "through any formal executive action, but through what are at best obscure statements in documents distributed to retirees and employees" that were general in nature, rather than authoritative. The guarantees were "available to them at particular points in time," and not in perpetuity, the motion says.

The motion notes that city officials and the Municipal Labor Committee, the umbrella organization of public-sector unions, have for the last three decades looked to address skyrocketing health-care costs to the city by finding "savings and efficiencies" within health care expenditures. But both MLC and city officials have said that any savings "should 'maintain and improve upon existing retiree benefits,' not diminish them," the motion says.

The MLC, in a weighted vote favoring larger municipal unions, overwhelmingly approved an agreement between the city and managed-care giant Aetna in March 2023. But last Sunday, the United Federation of Teachers, whose president, Michael Mulgrew, had been a vocal backer of the administration's effort to switch the retirees to a private plan, withdrew its support.

It is unclear what the UFT's pullback means for the agreement. The MLC's executive committee was to meet this week to discuss the fallout from the UFT's decision.

Mayor Eric Adams, though, on Tuesday said he was confident of "a solution to this problem."

"I'm extremely optimistic because when you've been in this game as long as I have, you realize there are bumps in the road," he said during his press briefing in response to a reporter's question about possibly dwindling support for the plan. "We're going to be fine.... We're going to resolve it."

The courts, though, have so far not sided with the city on the issue.



The Appellate Division's decision last month upheld an August 2023 trial court judge's finding dismissing city arguments that the promises of lifetime Medicare coverage "were not definite and were not forward looking."

The Appellate Division panel's conclusion marked the fourth time that courts have sided with the retirees.

In response to the city's motion, Marianne Pizzitola, the president of the New York City Organization of Public Service Retirees, chided the city's renewed effort.

"If the City wants to continue to waste more time and taxpayer dollars appealing yet another court decision prohibiting its unlawful effort to claw back life-saving healthcare benefits earned and paid for by senior citizens, the disabled, 9/11 responders, and widows, that is their prerogative," Pizzitola said in a statement. "Maybe the taxpayers and the retirees will let him know how we feel about that in November."

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**AMERICANS SHOULD BE FURIOUS AFTER HEARING THIS SENATOR MARCO RUBIO SAYS AMERICANS "THEY'VE WORKED HERE THEIR ENTIRE LIVES. THEY RETIRE. THEY GET \$800, \$900, A \$1,000 A MONTH FROM SOCIAL SECURITY. — SOMEBODY WHO JUST GOT HERE FROM CUBA 3 MONTHS AGO**

<https://x.com/wallstreetapes/status/1810267946570461447?s=51&t=li7xnXKX-bv13fw6uZmPtQ>

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**WATCH "WHAT IT WAS LIKE TO BE AN NYPD COP OVER LAST 50 YEARS**

<https://youtu.be/fcKmHoL9DfQ?si=0pwDxiE97qMP75j>



# **NYPD OFFICER DIES AT TRAINING FACILITY IN THE BRONX: POLICE**

[NYPD officer dies at training facility in the Bronx: Police \(pix11.com\)](#)

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## **MEET THE BABIES USED TO CREATE VACCINES**

<https://x.com/apwk/status/1810687834459664587?s=51&t=li7xnXKX-bv13fw6uZmPtQ>

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