

My name is Cheryl Cole-Candelaresi. My husband was Cincinnati Police Officer David Cole. He was only 24 years old when killed in the line of duty on July 17, 1974. He was murdered by two men who had not committed any crime that night. David got the run to investigate an attempted robbery. He saw two men in the area near the store they were going to rob and stopped to question them. As soon as he stepped out of his cruiser, they began shooting him.

David and I were high school sweethearts. A few weeks after graduation in 1969, David started his police career by entering the police cadet program in the Cincinnati Police Department. David always wanted to be a police officer because his dad, Jim Cole, was one.

David and I were married on August 12, 1972. At that time, David was in the recruit program. In 1973, he became a policeman, issued a badge number 160. David was very proud to be a police officer. He often talked about working and studying hard so he could advance through the ranks of the police department in his career. He didn't get the chance to fulfill his and our hopes and dreams both personally and professionally.

In addition, David was also in the Ohio National Guard. David wasn't supposed to be working the night he was murdered. David traded his off days so he could go to his weekend obligation with the Guard.

There hasn't been a word invented yet to describe the pain in my heart then and continues to be there ever since David was murdered. The nightmare of that time never has gone away.

I am so happy for David to get this honor. He certainly deserves it. Back when David was murdered 48 years ago, nothing was done like there is now in recent years for those killed in the line of duty. I never thought this honor would ever really happen. I felt why nothing was done for David was because it happened so long ago to deem any special recognition.

Thank you so much for House Bill 738 for Patrolman David L. Cole Memorial Highway on I-71. To know that the ultimate sacrifice he gave is being acknowledged and he will never be forgotten.

I truly appreciate you doing this tribute for David. Thank you so much! I know David would want me to thank you for him also.