

# Det. Steven McDonald

*March 1, 1957 – January 10, 2017*

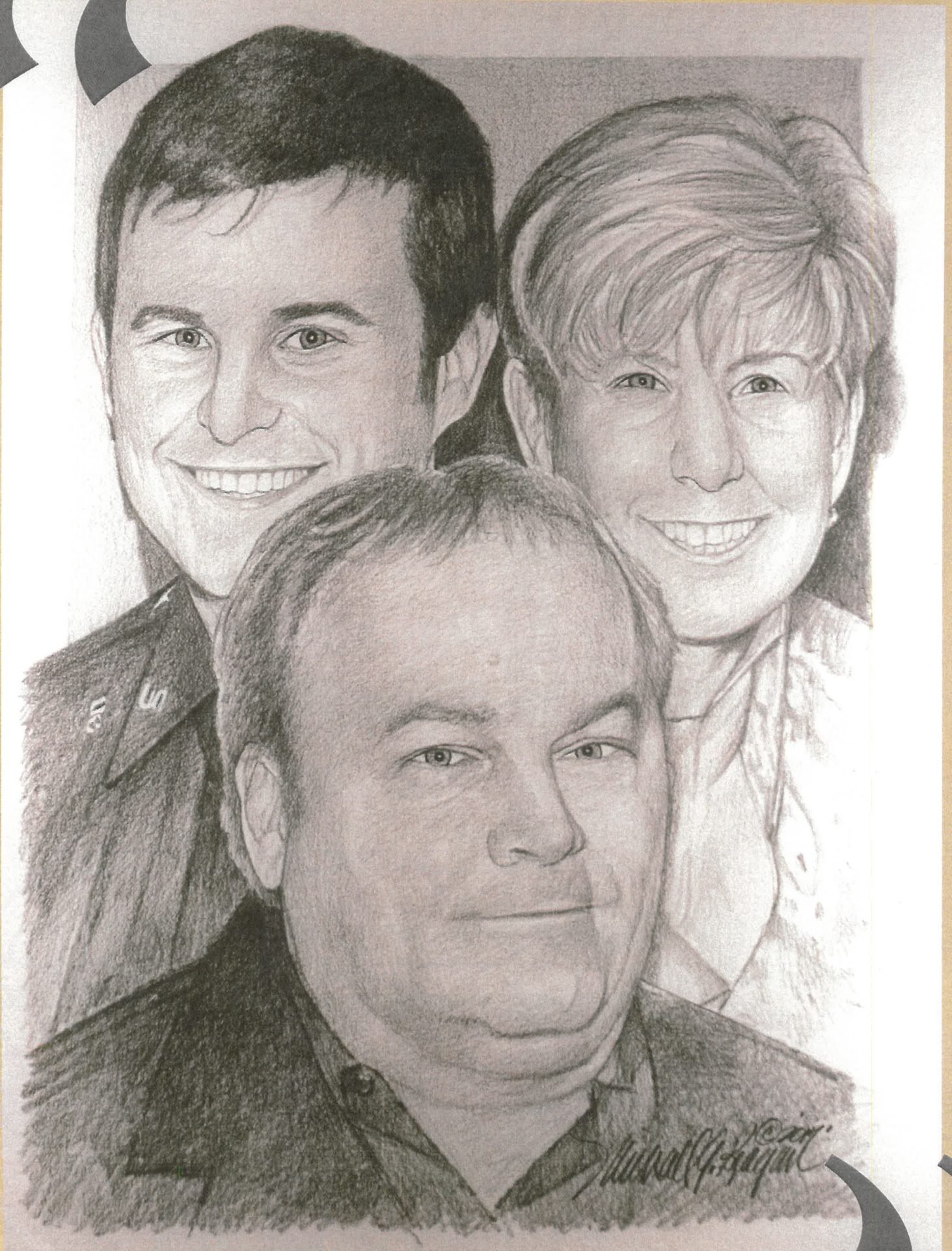
*On January 10, 2017, legendary first grade Det. Steven McDonald passed away at the age of 59. While throughout the world countless friends, family, colleagues, and fans of the remarkable Officer grieved his loss, news of his death also became a time to reflect upon his life's message of forgiveness and reconciliation. It has also been a reminder of the extraordinary fortitude and determination that McDonald was able to summon forth daily as he persevered through immobility and pain, yet lived his life to the fullest: travelling around the globe bringing inspiration and hope to thousands, despite the physical limitations he was saddled with after the infamous 1986 Central Park shooting which left him paralyzed.*

*A third generation cop, McDonald spent four years in the United States Navy before joining the New York Police Department. He was appointed to the force on July 16, 1984, and was still active, assigned to the Employee Relations Section, at the time of his death. His most impassioned champion and his tower of strength throughout his lifetime is his devoted wife, Patti Ann, a force in her own right as not only her husband's fervent companion, but the Mayor of their hometown of Malverne, New York.*

*In serving for more than three decades as the NYPD's goodwill ambassador to the world, McDonald exemplified not only the best of public service and the best of policing, but simply the best that mankind has to offer. Millions of words have been written about him thought the years, including his own autobiography, but no words are more poignant than the eulogy delivered by his only son, Conor, who honored The Gold Shield by giving us permission to reprint it on page 7. Pictured right, a pencil sketch of the McDonald family by artist Michael Reagan of the Fallen Heroes Project.*

*On September 18, 2001, Detectives Hal Sherman and Kevin McCarthy, and Sgt. Joseph Blozis, all of the Crime Scene Unit, were visited by Det. Steven McDonald at Ground Zero. McDonald made the trip to help bolster morale and lead prayers. "It was difficult," says Sherman, "for McDonald to be at the destroyed World Trade Center site, because the acrid smoke affected him more than anyone else. But despite his breathing limitations, he felt it was important in his own way to help 'rally the troops.'"*





# Det. McDonald



*“What we can learn from Steven’s life is this: the cycle of violence that plagues so many lives today can be overcome only by breaking down the walls that separate people. The best tools for doing this — Steven taught us — are love, respect, and forgiveness.”*

— Police Commissioner James O’Neill

*I responded to Steven’s “10-13” that awful day, after breaking down a Harlem door and assisting the Queens Homicide Squad Detectives while they sought out the killer of P.O. Scott Gadell of the 100th Precinct.*

*Our DEA President Michael Palladino’s remarks are spot on describing a great man, husband, father, son, friend, and Detective, whose presence and gentle influence changed many hard hearts. This is a trying time to get through, but thoughts of Steven and his impact on so many brighten the memory of the life he’s led. He’s a credit to humanity, an example of faith, hope, and charity: that is Steven’s legacy. Our Detective Steven McDonald won his race, indeed.*

— Retired Det. Tom Nerney



## *Eulogy for Dad by Conor McDonald*

### *Saint Patrick's Cathedral, New York City*

*January 13, 2017*

*Good morning your Eminence, Mayor de Blasio, Commissioner O'Neill, NYPD Executive Staff, distinguished guests, and many family and friends who are inside and outside this Cathedral. Thank you so much for showing tribute to my beautiful and amazing father.*

*I never thought this day would come. To me, as to many of you, my father was the real Superman. Since the day he was viciously shot, my father faced an endless amount of hardship that most of us here would never be able to imagine. However, my father got up every day, kept the faith in Jesus Christ and conquered his life, despite being in a wheelchair and dependent on a ventilator.*

*There were many ups and downs, lots of tears shed, but more hugs shared. He was the greatest man that I could have asked to be my father. From always being on the sideline rooting for me during my Chaminade sports days, making a weekly drive to visit me at Boston College just to have lunch at Applebee's, and calling me every day at 5:00 a.m. to say "good morning" while I was patrolling the streets of this great City. My father was always committed to me. He did more than most able-bodied fathers could ever do with their sons. Our most cherished times were when we used to watch our beloved New York Rangers in the Zamboni area of Madison Square Garden. Such magnificent times.*

*My dad loved life. He lived it to the fullest with the amazing care of his nurses, doctors, physical therapists and the Police Officers who drove him every day. My dad wanted to make sure his time on earth was not wasted. That is why he was passionate in spreading God's message of love, compassion and forgiveness. When many of us would have let anger destroy our hearts, my father forgave the young man who shot him every single day. He made it his mission to have all of us realize that love must win.*

*My father was so proud to be a veteran of the Navy where he was a corpsman to the Marines. Even more, his dream came true when he joined the greatest job in the greatest City in July 1984. My dad loved the NYPD until the end. He loved the shield, he loved the uniform. He loved his bosses. He*

*loved the men and women who wake up every day to protect this City. It was an honor and privilege for him. When God made my dad as a cop, He broke the mold. He's a legend who will never have a comparison.*

*Ultimately, my dad's heart belonged to his beautiful and most loyal bride, my mother, Patti Ann. Their marriage was true love. My dad would always tell me, that during the incident in Central Park, his thoughts were all about Ma. He knew he had to fight to see her again, and fight he did. My parents created the most phenomenal life out of such darkness. It was due to their unmatched, unconditional devotion and love for each other, which I witnessed since the beginning of my life. What a lucky son!*

*My mother and I would like to thank each and every one of you for your love and support. My dad always said that there was more love in New York City than there are street corners.*

*Thank you to North Shore Hospital for taking such good care of my father until he passed on. Thank you to the Village of Malverne, especially the Police Department, a village my dad loved so much. Thank you, members of the DEA and PBA who were with us keeping constant vigil at my dad's hospital bedside for four days and nights. Thank you so much.*

*Now my dad will lead us in prayer one more time:*

*"Lord, make me an instrument of Your peace. Where there is hatred, let me sow love; where there is injury, pardon; where there is doubt, faith; where there is despair, hope; where there is darkness, light; where there is sadness, joy.*

*O, Divine Master, grant that I may not so much seek to be consoled as to console; to be understood as to understand; to be loved as to love; For it is in giving that we receive; it is in pardoning that we are pardoned; it is in dying that we are born to eternal life." Amen.*

*God Bless America, our City of New York and our Saint, my dad, the legend, Detective Steven McDonald.*



*Dear Steve Feely,*

*I did not attend the funeral mass for Steven McDonald, but he and his family were in my and my wife thoughts. My wife and I watched the entire mass on NY1 in Lake George. Of everything that was said that day, I was extremely moved and impressed with the eulogy given by Steven's son Conor. His words spoke very strongly about the bond that he formed with his father from a very early age on. His words were similar to mine when speaking at my father's eulogy. We both worship the ground our fathers walked on, followed in their paths, and paved those paths in gold. I was a third generation cop along with my brother; and my brother's kid, like Conor, is now a fourth generation NYPD cop.*

*Is it possible to obtain the eulogy given by Conor and post it to the DEA website? I do believe that everyone should listen to it and feel the passion that he has for his dad, his family, and the NYPD. Steven was an inspiration for everyone and it lives on in his son.*

*— Retired Det. Dennis Mu*

Photo courtesy of the NYPD Photo Unit.

*I'm heartbroken about Steven's passing. I had the pleasure and honor of meeting him a few times over the years. He was shot months after I went on the job, but his shooting and his forgiveness has been a part of my career and my life ever since. Ten years ago, while I was President of the Detectives Association in Westchester, we donated \$10,000 for a service dog for Det. Terry McGhee, who in the end turned down the money and asked us to split it up among others who were trying to save the money required for a service dog. Terry said the NYPD and the job took care of him and Steve. That left a lasting impression on me for life. Eternal be Steve's memory!*

— Retired Det. Pat Storino

*"The shield Steven proudly wore on his chest symbolizes something sacred to every man and woman who has ever been a member of the NYPD. And every day that Steven was on this Earth, he embodied its rich tradition of courage and compassion."*

— Police Commissioner James O'Neill

*On behalf of the United States Marshals Service for the Southern District of New York, kindly accept my deepest condolences for the loss of Detective Steven McDonald: an NYPD hero, law enforcement legend, and truly inspirational alumnus of humanity.*

*May he rest in peace.*

— Michael Greco

United States Marshal, Southern District of New York



*Steven was an exceptional human being who should not be defined by the shooting that paralyzed him, but by what he accomplished in life after it happened. As a family, the McDonalds have a remarkable way of navigating adversity. Patti Ann McDonald is a woman of great character and a profile in courage. Their son Conor has already exhibited tremendous strength of character by following in his father's footsteps and becoming a New York City Police Officer. Our hearts go out to Connor and Patti Ann, as well as all of Steven's friends, family, and colleagues, on our loss of such a wonderful man.*

— Michael J. Palladino, President, Detectives' Endowment Association

*I am a retired New Jersey Police Detective and currently a graphic designer. I made these logos to donate to your union. I'm very sorry for your loss.*

— Detective Paul Melega

