

# The Gold Shield



Official Publication of the Detectives' Endowment Association, Inc. of the Police Department of the City of New York



*NYPD Sgt. Conor McDonald and his mother, Patti Ann McDonald, were the first recipients of the new DEA Det. Steven McDonald Humanitarian Award at the union's 100th Anniversary Gala. The McDonalds also now have an official Scottish tartan designed to honor the legendary Detective. Story on page 14. Photo courtesy of the NYPD Photo Unit.*



# Det. Steven McDonald

## Three unique memorials were recently designed to honor the late Det. Steven McDonald

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Three unique memorials were recently designed to honor the late Det. Steven McDonald:

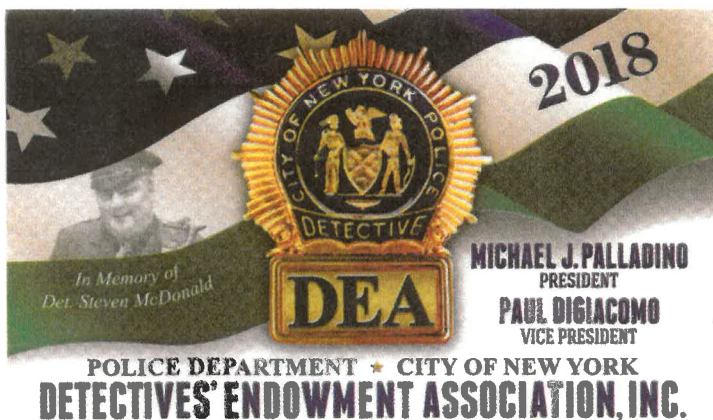
One is the DEA’s 2018 commemorative card, created with McDonald’s likeness against the backdrop of the navy blue, white, and emerald green stripes of the New York Police Department’s flag. Our coveted annual commemorative cards

of respect and esteem to the Department, the Detective Bureau, and the DEA. His image on our cards will keep a constant reminder of his presence in our hands, as well as in our hearts.

The Community Affairs Officers of the Central Park Precinct, to which McDonald was assigned, have also created a mobile memorial: a Steven McDonald challenge coin. While the Precinct recently named a street after the indefatigable Detective, the coin is something that can also be given, as a travelling keepsake, to friends and family. Central Park, the jewel of Manhattan, is the particular area of the City which, in 1986, took McDonald’s health, but yet, it’s the place he served for his remarkable 32-year career, and it’s the place that, ultimately, gave his life its greater purpose.

are sold to our own members to raise funds for various union causes, and the DEA thought it was fitting to honor our world-renowned Detective, who passed away on January 10, 2017. He brought an incalculable level

Another wholly original memorial to Steven McDonald has been created by an overseas company, Pricky Thistle, maker of bespoke tartans in Scotland. The idea originated with a Scottish woman named Claire Ward, who heard about Steven after reading about Father Mychal Judge, the FDNY Chaplain who died on September 11, 2001. Ward traveled to the United States to participate in the 2016 Father Mychal Judge Walk of Remembrance, where she met McDonald, a close friend of the late Chaplain and one of the Walk’s founders. When Ward returned to Scotland, she kept in touch with Steven, and when he passed away, she thought a unique, family tartan might be an appropriate way to honor him. She proposed the idea to Capt. John Bates, a retired maritime pilot who was one of Steven’s





# Donald



closest friends. In turn, Bates approached Steven's widow, Patti Ann, and son, Conor, and suggested that Prickly Thistle could create something to honor the late Detective's heritage and commitment to world peace.

Clare Campbell, the owner of Prickly Thistle, designed the fabric herself from elements that were important to McDonald. She took her inspiration from the Detective's extraordinary accomplishments and what he achieved in his legendary lifetime. In September 2017, Campbell showed Patti Ann and Conor six different designs, and they selected their favorite. The final McDonald tartan was logged into Scotland's "The Official Register of Tartans," which catalogues the history of the plaid fabrics, and ensures that the material may only be woven and made into garments in the United Kingdom's northernmost country. This ensures each garment is a genuine product.

Each color and thread count in the McDonald tartan holds a special significance for the pattern's namesake, and the meaning is described on the website specifically created for the fabric at [www.detectivemcdonaldtartan.com](http://www.detectivemcdonaldtartan.com). The tartan was launched on Facebook in November 2017. The response was overwhelming, with many viewers asking where they could purchase a garment made from the beautiful, meaningful wool. At the present time, only extra-length scarves and men's ties are being woven by Prickly Thistle. But keep an eye out for more offerings, and visit the company's website at [www.pricklythistle.com](http://www.pricklythistle.com) for more information on the history of tartans, their significance, and the craftsmen who weave these historic and stunning creations.

