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rificed so much for our City.”

Additionally, Senft has nothing but the highest praise for the DEA.

“The DEA has been standing firmly behind the PSSG since our inception in 1983. The union assisted us through the complex process of getting our tax exempt status, and has been overwhelmingly generous. I am proud to be a Detective and proud to be a member of the union. I want all of our members to know just how fortunate we are to have the DEA in our corner, and I say that, not just personally, but on behalf of the organization.”

“The Police Self Support Group is the only fraternal organization that doesn’t actively seek new members — it’s the last thing we want,” Senft says.

Donations, however, are readily accepted.

City employees can contribute through the annual Combined Municipal Campaign (CMC #1762).

Contact the
Police Self Support
Group
P.O. Box 090-030
Fort Hamilton Station
Brooklyn, NY
11209-0001

Around 2:30 am, Monday, July 9, 2007 in the Crown Heights section of Brooklyn, three hoods with significant criminal records — Lee Woods, Dexter Bostic, and Robert Ellis — were joy riding in a stolen, black BMW SUV when Patrolmen Herman Yan and Russel Timoshenko noticed the plate on the car had been reported stolen from a Mitsubishi Outlander.

They ordered the vehicle to pull over. As they cautiously approached, they were met with a hail of gunfire. Timoshenko went down instantly, shot in the head, with bullets ripping into his neck, mouth, and nose. Twenty-six year old Yan was hit in the chest and left arm, but managed to squeeze off shots at the fleeing vehicle before he collapsed. Security cameras from a nearby pre-school caught the shootout on fuzzy footage.

Within seconds, 71 Squad Detectives, in the area on an unrelated case, raced to the scene. They realized Timoshenko could not hold out for an ambulance, so they bundled him into the back of their car and rushed to the hospital. Paralyzed and unable to breathe freely, Timoshenko was put on life support at Kings County Hospital.

Yan was injured, but in far better condition. The metal plate in his protective vest took the brunt of the bullets that struck him.

The BMW was found abandoned a few blocks away with its engine still running. In a nearby driveway, cops found three illegal firearms. Both the car and the license plate were stolen from a Five Towns Mitsubishi dealership in Inwood.

The three perps went on the lam. All had significant violent criminal histories: Bostic, a 34-year-old car salesman, was a convicted kidnapper, rapist, and armed robber, and was supposed to be on monitored parole because of his violent criminal history. Ellis, also 34 and another veteran of prison time, was previously convicted of first degree rape and sodomy.

The third suspect, Woods, was found and taken into custody just hours after the shooting. He had previously been in jail for possession of a loaded .32 caliber and for assaulting the arresting officer.

An intense manhunt for the two missing gunmen ensued and both perps were nabbed within days in the Pocono Mountains in Pennsylvania. Ellis and Bostic were charged with attempted murder, assault on a police officer with a deadly weapon, hindering prosecution, weapons possession, and evidence tampering. Bostic was also charged with violating parole. In a symbolic gesture, they were restrained with handcuffs belonging to Officers Yan and Timoshenko. On Friday, July 13, they faced arraignment in Brooklyn.

But on Saturday, July 14, doctors lost their valiant struggle to keep Timoshenko alive and he died without regaining consciousness.

All three perps were arraigned again: this time on charges of murder in the first degree.

The death of Officer Timoshenko heightens the call once again for the death penalty for cop killers in New York. It’s also a reminder of the consequences of the ever-flowing pipeline of illegal firearms from the south and the dangers inherent in routine traffic stops.

Timoshenko was just one year out of the Police Academy. He was first assigned to the 70 Precinct before recent transfer to the 71. Tall, blonde, handsome, and athletic, he enjoyed lifting weights among other sports, and was known to his friends as “Russel the Muscle.”

His parents emigrated to the United States from Belarus, formerly in the Soviet Union, in 1993. An only child, he attended Tottenville High School in Staten Island where he played lacrosse, as he did at City College, where he was an excellent student. Testimony from friends and neighbors confirm that he was a natural at nurturing and protecting others, and with a



CALENDAR

SEPT. 13

Delegates' Meeting
11:00 a.m.
Russo's on the Bay
Howard Beach, NY

OCT. 4

DEA Dinner Dance
Russo's on the Bay
Howard Beach, NY

OCT. 17

Delegates' Meeting
11:00 a.m.
Russo's on the Bay
Howard Beach, NY

NOV. 15

Delegates' Meeting
11:00 a.m.
Russo's on the Bay
Howard Beach, NY

DEC. 11

Delegates' Meeting
11:00 a.m.
Russo's on the Bay
Howard Beach, NY

May Det. of the Month

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electricity.

While utilizing modern forensic techniques to analyze the rubble, it was the flatfoots' old fashioned footwork that solved this case. While canvassing the mostly Polish immigrant community surrounding the waterfront, the investigators questioned everyone, including the numerous homeless that congregate in the area. One of the locals interviewed had been drinking and was talkative: his name was Kuczera Leszek and he knew more about the fire than he could have picked up second-hand. With the assistance of the 94th Precinct's P.O. Dorothy Nazaruk who served as translator, the 59-year old Leszek confessed that he hoped to increase the value of the copper he had stolen from the buildings by burning off the insulation covering the pilfered wires and pipes. He piled up platforms and old tires and created a pyre to cook the precious metal. But the blaze soon spiraled out of control and Leszek fled the building.

On June 7, 2006, he was arrested and charged with arson, burglary, reckless endangerment, larceny, and criminal mischief. He tried to recant his confession with the aid of upstate contacts and gullible reporters, but the investigators proved his retraction false and the arsonist finally copped a plea deal.

For solving this crime of disastrous thievery and wanton destruction in just five short weeks, we honor our Detective of the Month, Raymond Marino of the NYPD Arson and Explosion Squad, and award DEA Certificates of Appreciation to ATF Special Agent Brian DiGirolamo, FDNY Fire Marshal Lawrence Pliska, now retired, and P.O. Dorothy Nazaruk, now with Vice.

Det. Russel Timoshenko

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strong sense of community and a deep desire for public service, he decided to pursue a career in law enforcement after being inspired by a neighbor who was on the force.

At his funeral service on July 19, 2007, Mayor Bloomberg and Commissioner Kelly announced Timoshenko's posthumous promotion to Detective as "a small measure of our appreciation for the supreme sacrifice" that he made. The funeral ceremony was performed mostly in Slavonic Russian, accompanied by chanting and choral singing reflective of Timoshenko's Orthodox roots.

Ten thousand police officers from throughout the eastern seaboard bid him farewell. Aerial photos of the event witness two thick ribbons of blue: police uniforms stretched for blocks and blocks across both sides of Flatbush Avenue. The procession included the cacophony of buglers and bagpipes underscored by the whiz and hum of the flybys of the Aviation Unit. During his burial, white doves were released into the air: a Russian tradition more associated with weddings than with funerals, but a fitting symbol — countering the mindless violence that caused the officer's death, and a gesture of hope for members of the NYPD who daily face the Sisyphean task of combating it.

Det. Timoshenko is survived by his parents, Leonid and Tatyana, and his beloved dogs, a Yorkie named "Stepa" and a Doberman pinscher, "Rusty."

Timoshenko was only 23 — possibly the youngest member of the NYPD killed in the line of duty.

**For breaking news from the Union,
please call the DEA Hotline at
(212) 233-3232**