



DETECTIVE
Anastasios Tsakos



On Monday, August 15, 2022, a portion of the Long Island Expressway was renamed in memory of Det. First Grade Anastasios Tsakos. Pictured from left are DEA Brooklyn North Welfare Officer David Lambert, Queens Trustee Nicholas Masi, Borough Director Brian Hunt (now retired), Irene Tsakos and daughter Eugenia, DEA President Paul DiGiacomo and DEA Secretary Scott Munro.

At the September 2021 Delegates' meeting, a presentation was made by both the DEA and the PBA to the family of Detective First Grade Anastasios ("Tasso") Tsakos, killed in the line of duty. The 43-year-old Officer was assigned to Highway Patrol Unit #3. During the overnight shift on April 27, 2021, he was securing an earlier, fatal accident scene on the Long Island Expressway when, at approximately 2:00 a.m., he was forcefully hit by a 2013 Volkswagen driven by an intoxicated driver with a suspended license. The driver fled the scene, but was chased down and arrested by NYPD Officers.

Officer Tsakos, who had been standing by his marked patrol car when he was struck, later died at New York-Presbyterian Hospital in Queens.

Thousands of mourners attended the Officer's funeral at the Saint Paraskevi Greek Orthodox Shrine Church in Suffolk County, Long Island where his widow Irene eulogized her husband as "the love of my life." It was noted by then-Police Commissioner Dermot Shea that Det. Tsakos was so devoted to the job that he had taken only three sick days in 14 years and testified for victims in court on his own time.

He had made more than 200 career arrests and was posthumously promoted to Detective First Grade and assigned gold shield #9005 at his funeral.

Jessica Beauvais, the drunk driver who killed Det. Tsakos, went on trial in Queens Supreme Court on August 9, 2022, and the case is still pending. The 32-year-old faces at least 13 charges, including manslaughter, vehicular manslaughter, reckless endangerment, driving while intoxicated, and leaving the scene of a fatal incident. She faces up to 15 years in prison. The night she killed Det. Tsakos, Beauvais registered twice the legal limit of alcohol in her system and admitted to having smoked marijuana before getting behind the wheel of her car. When taken into custody, she was belligerent and cursing at police. She was held without bail.

"I just want justice for my husband," says Irene. "He was such a selfless human being," she adds, something that was reflected by his life in public service.

Det. Tsakos was born in the United States, but spent his childhood years in Greece. As a teen he returned to the States and attended Saint Demetrios High School in Astoria, Queens. After attending Dowling College in Long Island, he travelled back to Greece and served in the Greek Army, finishing his national service as a Second Lieutenant. He returned to the United States and joined the NYPD in 2007. He worked in the 75th and 83rd Precincts before he joined the Highway Unit in 2014.

Det. Tsakos had the reputation of being a dedicated and productive Officer, a wonderful, generous friend and neighbor, a family man who loved spending time with his children, and a talented woodworker in his off hours. He was also an accomplished pilot and a motorcycle enthusiast.

Irene and Tasso were together for 11 years and married for eight. They have two young

children: Eugenia, now eight, and Stavros, now six years old. Irene, a Long Island native, met Anastasios at a diner that his brother once owned in Great Neck.

"During the opening day, when I walked in," says Irene, a Valley Stream native, "I noticed him. He was so handsome. Little did I know that he noticed *me!*" she says of the Officer who unabashedly walked over to her, sat down, and struck up a conversation.

"He was so confident," she says with a laugh. "I found out later, after we had been dating for only about a week or so, that he told friends he was going to marry me. He knew right away, and it was confirmed by one of his friends after he passed away. The friend told me he literally said, 'I am dating a girl and I am going to marry her.' His friend asked him, 'Does *she* know that?!' But, it turned out that he was right." The couple married on August 17, 2013.



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“We miss him very much,” Irene continues. “He is still very alive in our home and in our hearts. We talk to him at night, and the kids tell him about their day. That’s how I want it to be. He very much remains a part of our lives. I want them to know that they still have a father, even though he passed away. That’s how we navigate life at this point.”



Det. Tsakos’ parents, Anna and Stavros, were in Greece at the time of his death and flew back to the United States for the hero’s funeral where Archbishop Elpidophoros of the Greek Orthodox Church reminded the mourners that Det. Tsakos was taken during Holy Week of the Greek Orthodox religion. He also reminded the patrons that the name Anastasios means “Resurrection.”

The Archbishop eulogized, “Tasso gave up his life in the service of those he was sworn to protect and to serve,” and promised that Tasso’s name would remain “forever in our hearts.”

In an effort to fulfill that promise, on Monday, August 15, 2022, a portion of the Long Island Expressway was renamed as the “Det. Anastasios Tsakos Memorial Bridge.” The legislation to accomplish the bridge renaming was sponsored by Queens lawmakers State

Senator Toby Ann Stavisky and Assemblywoman Nily Rozic. The dedication took place at the corner of Francis Lewis Boulevard and Horace Harding Expressway. The transit sign hangs above the overpass that borders the 107 and 111 Precincts.

DEA President Paul DiGiacomo said, “Det. First Grade Anatasios Tsakos is a hero of New York City who leaves behind a loving family and a tremendous legacy of service. We are honored and proud to have his family as part of our DEA family.” Det. Tsakos is interred at Northport Rural Cemetery in East Northport, New York.

