

*Transcript of a Saint Paul Police oral history interview with*

# **Patricia Therese “Trish” Englund**



Clerk Typist II  
1984



Commander  
2016

December 1, 2010

by

Oral Historian Kateleen Cavett

at

HAND in HAND Productions' office in Saint Paul, Minnesota

RESTRICTED until death

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2012

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All pictures are from the Saint Paul Police Department collections and the personal files of the Englund family.

## ORAL HISTORY

Oral History is the spoken word in print.

Oral histories are personal memories shared from the perspective of the narrator. By means of recorded interviews, oral history documents collect spoken memories and personal commentaries of historical significance. These interviews are transcribed verbatim and minimally edited for accessibility. Greatest appreciation is gained when one can listen to an oral history aloud.

Oral histories don't follow the standard language usage of the written word. Transcribed interviews are not edited to meet traditional writing standards, they are edited only for clarity and understanding. The hope of oral history is to capture the flavor of the narrator's speech and convey the narrator's feelings through the timbre and tempo of speech patterns.

An oral history is more than a family tree with names of ancestors and their birth and death dates. Oral history is recorded personal memory, and that is its value. What it offers complements other forms of historical text, and does not always require historical corroboration. Oral history recognizes that memories often become polished as they sift through time, taking on new meanings and potentially reshaping the events they relate.

Memories shared in oral histories create a picture of the narrator's life – the culture, food, eccentricities, opinions, thoughts, idiosyncrasies, joys, sorrows, passions - the rich substance that gives color and texture to this individual life.

Kate Cavett

Oral Historian HAND in HAND Productions  
Saint Paul, Minnesota



## **Patricia Therese “Trish” Englund**

was appointed clerk typist II June 25, 1983; promoted clerk typist I October 7, 1985;  
certified parking enforcement officer March 30, 1987;

leave of absences: March 11, 1989 – April 14, 1989, May 22, 1989 – May 21, 1990  
and March 25, 1991 – June 24, 1991;

appointed police officer January 23, 1993;

promoted sergeant May 17, 1997; commander May 31, 2014.

Medal of Commendation 1995, 1999

Medal of Merit 1989

Detective of the Year 2009

TE: Trish Englund

KC: Kate Cavett

TE: My name is Trish Englund. I work for the Saint Paul Police Department. I’ve been there since approximately 1983 in a variety of positions. I grew up in the city of Saint Paul—lived on Western and Front. That’s where I was born and I grew up on Lexington and Charles. I went to school at Galtier<sup>1</sup> and then Saint Agnes<sup>2</sup>—grade school and high school.

KC: And do you still live in the city?

TE: I do still live in the city.

KC: You’re one of our few cops that does.

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<sup>1</sup> Galtier Elementary School 1317 Charles Avenue, Saint Paul, MN 55104

<sup>2</sup> Saint Agnes School 530 Lafond Ave., St. Paul, MN 55103

TE: Yes. And I've lived all over the city. I've lived off of Rice Street. I've lived in the Midway. I've lived in the Mac-Groveland Area. I've lived out West Seventh Street. And now for the last twenty years I've made my home on the East Side.

KC: When you were growing up, did you have any contact with police?

TE: Limited. Two experiences in particular. I remember being probably pre-teen, maybe just turned a teenager, and Mark Shields<sup>3</sup> and his young family had moved across the street from us on Charles. He was a police officer and would later become the director of the Post Board.<sup>4</sup> My parents had befriended them, so he would come occasionally to our home for parties and whatnot. And then as a teenager—the first time probably I paid any attention to the police was when—then her name was Mamie Lanford,<sup>5</sup> came on the job. I knew about that because all the teenage boys in the neighborhood, who drove their Chevys and were worried about getting in trouble had brought up the fact that there was a new cop working the area and boy, was she mean. And then I first saw her because I worked at the Dairy Queen on Lexington and I remember her coming to the backdoor once. We were really busy and she came to the backdoor once and she looked mean and I remember being afraid to open the door, because I didn't

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<sup>3</sup> Mark K. Shields was appointed patrolman January 23, 1971; appointed to sergeant November 5, 1977; and resigned March 24, 1978.

<sup>4</sup> The Minnesota legislature created the Minnesota Peace Officer Training Board (MPOTB) in 1967 to regulate the practice of law enforcement. In 1977, several legislative amendments were added to create Minnesota Board of Peace Officer Standards and Training (POST Board), which was the first law enforcement occupational licensing system in the USA. This system established law enforcement licensing and training requirements and set standards for law enforcement agencies and officers. Minnesota officers are required to have a two year degree and 48 continuing education credits every three years.

<sup>5</sup> Mamie Lanford Singleton was appointed police officer July 11, 1977; promoted to sergeant July 3, 1999; and retired August 2, 2006.

know what to expect. I did anyway and she was wonderful. She was just a sweet lady, but had a reputation for being a hard charger.

KC: And her name now is Mamie Singleton.

TE: It is.

KC: So what interested you in becoming—when did you first start recognizing you had an interest in becoming an officer?

TE: I graduated from high school and I got a job with the state right out of high school. I worked for the Department of Administration, and then I worked for the Department of Corrections, and then I worked for the Department of Natural Resources. And while I was doing that, a friend of mine, Roleen Marchetti whose father, Tom Marchetti<sup>6</sup> was a Saint Paul police officer, told me that there was an opportunity for part-time work at the police department in the Records unit, working weekends, overnights. I was young and struggling, she was young and struggling—she had a boatload of kids to support—so I said yes. Went in, got the job, and I worked overnights for—boy, a long time it seemed like.

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<sup>6</sup> Thomas J Marchetti was appointed police officer April 2, 1956; promoted to sergeant June 25, 1965; and passed away January 7, 1985.

The longer I was there the more I interacted with police officers. I met a lot of great cops, good cops like Randy Schwartz<sup>7</sup> and the Joe Strong<sup>8</sup> and Colleen Luna.<sup>9</sup> I remember Rogers <sup>10</sup>and McNeely.<sup>11</sup> Really great cops.



Trish  
Clerk Typist II      1984

At one point when I was working as a temporary employee on the weekends, I was raped by a cop. And I was afraid to tell anybody. Somehow,

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<sup>7</sup> Randall Craig Schwartz was appointed police officer January 30, 1984; and retired April 2, 2004.

<sup>8</sup> Joseph Michael Strong was appointed police officer January 30, 1984; promoted to sergeant April 21, 2001; and retired May 28, 2010.

<sup>9</sup> Colleen Marie Luna was appointed police officer May 20, 1984; leave of absence February 16, 1989 to April 3, 1989; leave of absence July 12, 1991 to September 3, 1991; promoted to sergeant June 26, 1994; lieutenant March 27, 1999; title change to commander January 1, 2000; senior commander February 3, 2001; acting assistant chief February 1, 2003; reinstated as senior commander June 21, 2003; reinstated as commander October 29, 2005.

<sup>10</sup> Lawrence Richard Rogers was appointed police officer March 27, 1983; promoted to sergeant April 20, 1989; and retired April 30, 2009.

<sup>11</sup> Timothy Kevin McNeely was appointed police officer March 27, 1983; promoted to sergeant June 26, 1994; lieutenant October 16, 1999; title changed to commander January 1, 2000; and resigned June 30, 2006.



somewhere inside me, I decided that the only way I could—I don't know if you want to say beat him, or—

KC: —not be victim to him?

TE: Right. It was that and if somebody like that could be a cop, I could be a cop. And I could be a good cop. The more good cops there were, then the fewer cops like that there would be, was what went through my head. I started taking classes one class at a time, because I didn't have the money to go to school full time. I was on my own, I had a house, and that's when I started going to school. I took a path where I know a part of that was at one point in there, I dated a guy who was a raging alcoholic and ultimately violent and I had a child with him and I still wasn't done with school. I bet he drank enough a month—the amount of alcohol he consumed cost me a car that I had bought.

I then went from being a Records clerk to working as Parking Enforcement Officer and that's what I was doing at the time that I was with him. I lost my car and I had to take the bus to work every day. Then I would walk to the West Side where I would take—the Inver Hills was offering some classes at some of the community centers. So I would walk and then I would walk home to my little apartment out on West Seventh Street. During the course of all that I knew I still wanted to be a police



Trish Englund  
1987

officer. I got pregnant, stayed in the relationship until my daughter was a month old, when I would come home—because I would come home at lunchtime to check on her—found him passed out with a bottle of vodka underneath the table and my daughter laying on a pile of blankets, and then I knew I needed to be done. I ended up moving to subsidized housing. I went on public assistance. And for the next year, I hit the books and finished school, because I met with Chief McCutcheon.<sup>17</sup> Boy was he a scary guy, huh?

KC: Yes, I've interviewed him. I can see that in his day he would have presented tough.

TE: [Laughs] I mean now he's not so scary to me, but back in the day, you know, I mean, I worked in Records and then was a Parking Enforcement Officer and Chief McCutcheon just didn't interact with many everyday folks in the police department. It was a big deal if he walked by and acknowledged you. And there I sat in his office, with my infant daughter on my shoulder, and I remember that he said, "Well, young lady, what brings you here?" As I started to talk, I remember my daughter vomited on my shoulder and he gave me a little chuckle, which made me feel a little bit more comfortable. I explained my situation to him and asked him for a year's leave of absence so I could finish school, get my degree and get the job that I knew I wanted. All he said to me was, "Well, young lady, you've got a long road to hoe, but I'll give you a year to do it." And that's what I did. That's what I did. So I finished school, got my degree, had some amazing people in my life during that time, and started my career.

KC: Because you'd been a parking enforcement officer, you were hired.

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<sup>17</sup> William Wallace McCutcheon served the Saint Paul Park Police 1948 to 1954, appointed patrolman January 4, 1954; promoted to sergeant August 22, 1960; lieutenant December 12, 1965; captain June 20, 1969; deputy chief February 4, 1972; chief April 1, 1980; and retired July 15, 1992.

TE: I still had to take the test. I remember the day that the test results came out, because McCutcheon by then had moved on and Finney<sup>18</sup> was Chief then. I was in the office and he strolled into the office and he looked at me and pointed and he said, “Number one gal on the list.” “Yay me!”

KC: What a lot of work.

TE: It was a lot of work. It was a lot of work.

KC: School is a lot of work. An infant child is a lot of work. Doing it all single is a lot of work.

TE: It is. It is.

KC: How did it feel when it all came together? All of that work was going to pay off and then you start an academy, which is a whole different kind of a lot of work.



TE: [Both Laugh] Yeah, it is. You know what, I knew when I had taken the test—I knew when I finished school, that I wasn’t done. I knew when I finished Skills that I wasn’t done. I knew when I passed the test that I wasn’t done. In my mind, even when I got done with the academy, I wasn’t going to be done, because as I was going through all that, I remember sitting at the table—and back then it was still typewriters for writing papers for school and things. My daughter was so little and I remember telling her several times, “You know what honey, Mommy

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<sup>18</sup> William “Corky” Kelso Finney was appointed January 4, 1971; promoted to sergeant April 1 1978. He was the first Black male promoted to lieutenant March 8, 1982; captain February 23, 1987; and became Saint Paul’s first Black chief July 17, 1992. He retired June 30, 2004.

just has to get this done. Mommy just has to get this done. I promise you someday you will have a house with a yard and fence, but Mommy has to get this done. Mommy has to do this right now. Go play with some toys.” And that’s when I was going to have achieved something, is when I was able to move out and provide my daughter with a house with a yard, with a fence, and a swing set. A year later, I bought that house and I’m still there today.

KC: Wow. That’s not too long, considering.

TE: It’s not, no. I got lucky, I guess. The housing market was good, interest rates were relatively low. I



Officer Trish Englund with daughter Keirsten Englund  
Academy Graduation 1993

mean, I started out having a friend move in my basement because I really couldn’t afford it on my own. I really didn’t spend much money anywhere, because by then I was out of the academy. And I loved—I *loved* my job, so much that I never even wanted to take a day off. I remember after the first year of

getting towards the end of the year and being told, “You need to take some vacation time.” And—“I don’t want to take any vacation time, and I certainly don’t want to take a night off on a Friday or Saturday. What if I’m gone and something great happens or something exciting happens or I miss something that I could have been a part of?” Because I was all in.

While you’re on probation, you work a variety of shifts, but ultimately I had gone to work in the Eastern District after I was off probation, and I was working from six at night until four in the morning, which was kind of a hellacious shift when you have a toddler, but I had a great daycare provider who took my daughter in. So I would drop her off, but the daycare provider would keep her overnight. I would get off work, I would go pick her up—

KC: At four in the morning?

TE: At four in the morning, yes. I had a key for my daycare provider’s house. I would go in, get her off of the sofa bed and bring her home and put her to sleep.

It was fine when she was young, but once she got into school, then it was pick her up at four in the morning, try and get some sleep, get up at eight, bring her, she goes to kindergarten. And you know, they’re only there—boy, then it seemed like an hour. It didn’t seem nearly long enough to me. So I would try and go back to sleep and then get up and go pick her up from kindergarten and bring her back home, give her some lunch, try to spend a little time with her and inevitably I would fall asleep again for an hour or two, get up, give her dinner and start all over again.





*Class of 1993-1*

Row 1: Off. Y. Yang, Off. X. Yang, Off. R. Votel, Off. G. Porter, Off. C. Ly, Off. K. Siouthai. Row 2: Off. T. Englund, Off. T. Learmont, Off. D. Olsen, Off. K. O'Reilly, Off. T. McNamara. Row 3: Off. T. Cha, Off. L. Kluball, Off. M. Daly, Off. R. Rantila, Off. A. Dearo, Off. J. McRae, Off. S. Payne. Row 4: Off. W. Beaudette, Off. C. Olson, Off. M. Levorson, Off. P. Paulos, Off. J. Buchmeier, Off. R. Montgomery, Off. F. Gray. Row 5: Off. R. Straka, Off. R. Ryan, Off. J. Miller, Off. D. Case, Off. W. Noll, Off. J. Wuorinen.

KC: But you were having fun with the job.

TE: I was having fun, yeah.

KC: Now you went through the academy in 1993. Anything remarkable about your academy? Anything that you specifically remember? You'd been around the culture for ten years, but academy is learning the culture in a different way.

TE: It is. And you know, I think I had an advantage because I had worked for the department already for almost ten years. I was in an academy with Ron Ryan,<sup>19</sup> who I had dated, who I had gone to school with, who I had gone through skills with. With Paul Paulos,<sup>21</sup> who years prior I had been working a part-time job at Sears and he worked there, too, so I had known him. In fact, I had dated him when I was probably nineteen years old. So I knew him. Rob Montgomery,<sup>22</sup> whose mother [Sr. Commander Debbie Montgomery<sup>23</sup>] I knew and who I had worked with as a Parking Enforcement officer.

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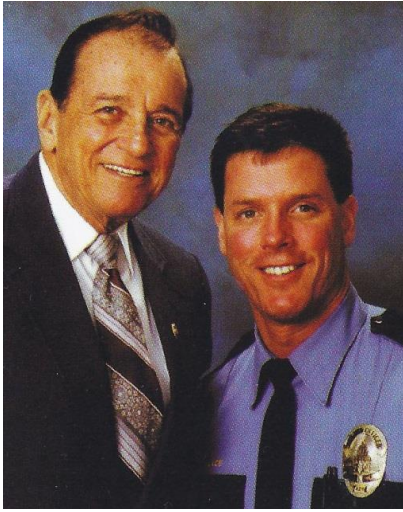
<sup>19</sup> Ronald Michael Ryan, Jr. was appointed police officer January 23, 1993; fatally injured by gunfire while responding to a "slumper" call August 26, 1994. His father was Commander Ronald Ryan, Sr.

<sup>21</sup> Paul Gregory Panagiotopoulos (Paulos) was appointed police officer April 5, 1993; promoted to sergeant February 17, 2001. His father was Sergeant Paul Richard Panagiotopoulos (Paulos).

<sup>22</sup> Robert William Montgomery, Jr. was appointed parking enforcement officer June 23, 1988; police officer January 23, 1993; and resigned October 3, 2003. His mother was Senior Commander Debbie Montgomery.

<sup>23</sup> Deborah Louise Montgomery (April 17, 1946) was the first female to complete the same academy as male recruits and was appointed police officer September 8, 1975. She was the first Black woman promoted to sergeant November 8, 1987; lieutenant May 29, 1998; title change to commander January 1, 2000; senior commander February 8, 2003; retired July 31, 2003. She became assistant commissioner of the Minnesota Department of Public Safety 1991-1998 and was the first Black woman to serve on the Saint Paul City Council 2004-2007.





Paul Richard Paulos (officer: 1954 – 1990) &  
Paul Gregory Paulos (officer: 1993 – present)  
1999



Debbie Montgomery (officer: 1975 – 2003)  
& Rob Montgomery (officer: 1993—2003)  
1999

KC: These are all legacies—[having a relative who has been an officer in the Saint Paul Police Department].

TE: They are.

KC: Their parents are historic in the department.

TE: Yes absolutely. Absolutely. And I knew their parents. And I knew their parents from a work view. Not so much from a personal view, but a work view. So it was a comfortable place for me to be. It was very comfortable.

I think during our academy, I think was one of the first academies where they had a group meeting for just the women. I don't remember everyone who came to speak, but I know Nancy DiPerna<sup>24</sup> was one of them. It was to talk to us

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<sup>24</sup> Nancy Elizabeth DiPerna was appointed police officer October 31, 1980; promoted to sergeant March 9, 1986; lieutenant May 1, 1990; commander October 4, 1997; senior commander January 1, 2000; assistant chief June 26, 2004; returned to senior commander July 3, 2010; and retired November 30, 2010.



about how you fit into the police culture as a female or how you make it work for you—pros, cons. I don't remember paying too much attention, because I kind of thought none of that applied to me, because I had been there so long. Quite frankly, no one could hurt me, because if someone's already raped you, there was nothing anyone could do to me that was going to be worse than that. I think that's how I looked at going into the job. Even if you kill me, my family's going to suffer, but I not.

KC: Were you ever able to prosecute that officer?

TE: I told one person. A good friend of mine at the time. I think up until a couple months ago I have not told anyone. Because it's embarrassing.

KC: For him.

TE: It should be embarrassing for him, but it's embarrassing now even for me, but I think for a different reason—because I think I'm seen as such a strong, out-there, you know, take care of myself person—to not have done anything about it is embarrassing.

KC: And yet sometimes that also is self-preservation. The road into your career my not have been as smooth, unfortunately, if you had prosecuted.

TE: You're right and that was a concern.

KC: Yeah. I can appreciate that. It makes me angry.

TE: But it's not that anyone covered it up, pushing it under the rug. No one knew.

KC: An energy larger than ours will have to find justice.

TE: I believe that. Yeah.

KC: FTO—Field Training ?

TE: FTO was fun.

KC: Who were your FTOfficers?

TE: My primary was Heidimarie Riemenschneider, later to because Heidimarie Hinzman.<sup>25</sup> And she was a spit fire, I tell you. And then I had Ron Keller.<sup>26</sup> He's retired now. Complete opposite of Heidi and it was fun. I tell you. FTO was fun. Heidi was pretty hard on me, and then I know I went the next phase with Ron and—one it was a different shift. I worked midnights with Heidi, and then with Ron, I was on afternoons. I remember the first traffic stop I did with Ron, and I got done and he said, "Why are you being so hard?" [Chuckles] And I said, "'Cause I'm supposed to. I'm supposed to show that I'm tough and I'm not gonna take anything and it's all about my officer presence." And he said, "Relax a little bit. Relax a little bit." So you learn, and I think everyone will tell you, you take away little bits from everyone that you FTO with and figure out what works for you.

While I was in field training, there had been a robbery down on Selby, where the victim was shot. As I recall, they took his tennis shoes and a watch maybe. And you know, that's my neighborhood. I mean, I grew up on Lexington and Charles, and I remember thinking in my head, because I was new, I was working in what was then Southwest. So it was out of my parameters. And they

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<sup>25</sup> Heidemarie Feucht Riemenschneider Hinzman was appointed police officer April 2, 1990; promoted to sergeant October 7, 1995; and resigned April 19, 2006.

<sup>26</sup> Ronald George Keller was appointed police officer February 23, 1980; and retired June 30, 2000.

were kind of hard on us. I could go as far as Lexington and I couldn't go east of Lexington. But I said to my FTO, I said, "Do you care? I'm just going down University, and then I'm going to go down on Lexington, because you know what? They're gonna come to the freeway. That's where they're going." That's where I would go to get away, because what—are you going to all the way down to West Seventh Street? Lexington down there? No way. And the timing was right and I was stopped Southbound on Lexington at 94 and a car matching the description with occupants matching the suspects took a fast left to head Westbound on 94 and I looked at my field training officer and he looked back at me and he said, "What do you think?" And I said, "It's them." And he said, "Go for it then!" I remember hitting the gas and I was so excited because I was so new and I hit the gas and I started spinning out on some sand and suddenly that, "Oh, know you can't blow this. This is important!" Got control of the car, got on the freeway. Ultimately stopped them in Minneapolis and it was the guys. Indeed. Indeed. And it was pretty exciting to have something that significant happen to you so early in your career.

KC: How much of that is intuition and how much of that is "Yeah, I know the neighborhood?"

TE: You know I think it's kind of fifty-fifty and it's funny you ask that, because I remember having to testify for every one of those suspects, and when I wrote my report, I wrote I believed that was the most likely route and I remember the Defense Attorney challenging me on that, and I said, "I lived there." I said, "You just robbed and shot somebody." I said "Well, back in the day, Selby Avenue was full of cops. Which other way would you possibly go?" And he said, "Well, you're saying it's the fastest route to Minneapolis." And I said, "No sir, I'm saying it's the fastest route out of the city. Why would you take side streets or

even University, Lexington, Grand, Summit, continue on Selby, Marshall? There's going to be cops all over there, you know that. You need to get to the freeway and the fastest route to the freeway is 94. And why would you go Eastbound on 94, because you're coming right back into the heart of the city? So that's why I say it's the fastest route out of the city." And that's what I wrote and that's what I believed and that's enough reason that I thought it was them. So it does help, knowing the city. I don't know if I hadn't been from here that I would have thought to go necessarily, to kind of hang by there, figuring that's where somebody might go.

KC: Well, and when you live in a neighborhood, you know what you drive. It's just there. You just know where you drive. What's it like testifying for the first time? Because you're a rookie.

TE: Well, first I want to say it was kind of a—well, you know I was working nights still and I was a single mom. I had to testify at every Rasmussen Hearing<sup>27</sup> and then for every trial. My daycare provider was a wonderful woman, but she wasn't going to keep my daughter overnight and then all day, too. So I brought my daughter to court and a victim's advocate stayed with her with coloring books every time I had to go testify. You know, I remember being nervous, but maybe not as nervous as I would be later on, because I'm not sure so early in my career if I really understood the magnitude of testimony or the power it could have or how it could really ruin a case. I hadn't had much police experience, so it was such a significant experience so early in my career. It was ingrained in my

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<sup>27</sup> Rasmussen Hearing in Minnesota is a pre-trial evidentiary hearing on defense motion(s) to suppress evidence that is the fruit of illegal conduct by police and other government agents. If evidence against the accused is suppressed, it cannot be used at trial. If all evidence against the accused is suppressed, the charge(s) may be dismissed for lack of evidence.

head. There was no studying for it. It was easy for me to rattle off what I saw and what I knew and what I had heard and where I went and what I did and why I did it. So that was probably one of the easiest testimonies I think I ever had.

KC: When you caught up with them in Minneapolis, did you alert Minneapolis you were going into their city?

TE: We had cleared the air. It was a chase. We were only one squad, so we were hanging back a little bit, but a ten-one<sup>28</sup> was called and we were giving out our locations and Minneapolis was notified because we knew we were heading into Minneapolis. So Minneapolis was there when we did the stop. We had plenty of people there.

KC: When you finally pulled them over, Minneapolis officers were there, too.

TE: Were there also, yep, and additional Saint Paul squads. Yeah, there were a lot of us.

KC: Were you the first one to get out of the car and...

TE: You know - and that's a story, too. You go through the academy, you go through skills, you learn how to do a felony stop, and oh, I was excited. I was driving the car, which means that you're the car captain and you're calling out the felony stop, and I am so ready. I've been paying attention, I've been watching this car, but I'm ready. I know because we say ahead of time we're going to stop them here. I know it's coming and I'm ready. I'm grabbing the PA as I'm opening my door and I've got my gun out, my FTO—Field Training Officer crossed right in front of my line of fire and walked up to the car [chuckles]. And one, I was concerned, because it wasn't safe and two I was dumbfounded, because he had

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<sup>28</sup> 10-1: Clear channel one of all communication traffic, except around this incident.

just violated a standard that we were taught. You know when somebody does that and you're not sure then what you're supposed to do? Because my training said no, I'm not going to approach a car where I think there are guns and killers? But once he walked up to the car, then I saw Minneapolis cops going up to the car and I was frustrated. I was angry. I still knew my place, so I didn't challenge him on it, but I talked to fellow classmates later—"Can you believe this is what happened?" I knew I would never—that's not something that I would do, but that's where you take what you learn—the good, the bad and you apply it for yourself. Not everyone's perfect and who knows, maybe he was excited and not thinking, went up to the car. I don't know what he was thinking. Or maybe because I was new, maybe he didn't have the confidence in me to call out the felony stuff. I don't know. I mean that certainly is a possibility, too. Because when you're a field training officer, you're responsible for yourself and the person that you're training, in essence. I hadn't worked with him much. Maybe he just didn't feel comfortable. Or maybe because there were so many cops around, he did feel comfortable going up to the car? I don't know, I guess. I hate to second guess. I just don't know why he did it, but he did.

KC: In the academy and in FTO, did the women pull together or did you find that it was the officers that you had known that were primary supports?

TE: I was kind of a loner in the academy. Mostly because everyone else was kind of young and single and I was older and had a lot of responsibility. So I didn't have any women—I didn't feel at the time I think a connection really with women.



1993-1 Academy Female Officers

Top row: Trish Englund, Gayle Porter, Diana Olsem, Kathleen O'Reilly, Tina McNamara, Teri Learmont, Megan Daly. Front row: Lori Kluball, Renee Thomas, Jill McRae



Split picture:

1993

2016

KC: How many were in the academy total?

TE: I think we had thirty-five? Forty? It was a big academy. We lost a lot early on, too. Not really sure why, but very few from my academy are still around.

KC: When you complete FTO, do they put you to work on the East Side where you're living?

TE: I think I bid it. Because I think I started—yep, January 1, 1994. I went to work the Eastern District.

KC: Any significant experiences those first years learning patrol? Working patrol?

TE: You know, I still was kind of a loner. I was still so—I can do stuff myself. Even if no one says it, you feel like you need to prove yourself and I was lucky. In FTO, I caught some killers and that doesn't happen to everybody. I ended up being a gun magnet somehow. I think within my first week going to East, I had stopped a car and gotten—it was a semi-auto rifle. It looked like a small machine gun to me at the time. I didn't know much about guns then—out of the car. And it was "You're a hero! Oh my God! Trish, how'd you get this gun? Where'd you get this? What are you doing?" I ended up getting a lot of guns at traffic stops. I don't know. Again, I don't know, is it luck? Is it intuition? Is it knowing who you're looking for? Is it just paying attention? But I think because of that, I was accepted, I think. I know part of it is taking care of yourself, too. I remember early on when I was in the Eastern District going to a domestic, I had really just gotten there, but it didn't seem like much was going on. I had been talking to the



female half and she said “No, everything’s fine,” so I cancelled the other squad. At the time, it was Vick<sup>29</sup> and Toupal<sup>30</sup> were working together.

KC: Jerry Vick and Matt Toupal. The infamous partnership.

TE: Yes, yes. And they came anyway. And just as they walked in the door, the male half of the domestic came around the corner from upstairs, heading down the stairs, and he was just in a rage. It turned out fine, but then as we walked out they said, “Hey, we’re a team out here. Don’t feel like you have to cancel people. Let us come. Let us come. If there’s nothing going on, we can all still walk out the door together, but don’t feel like you have to do things alone out here. It’s okay to let assisting squads arrive.” And that meant a lot to me. It really did. Because in my own head I thought, the more I cancel other squads and the more I just handle things on my own, then that’s how I’ll prove that I’m one of you. I can do it.

KC: And you’d been handling your life on your own.

TE: I had been.

KC: You’d done a lot of recovery, just you.

TE: Right.

KC: So it would make sense that you had that perspective.

TE: Right.

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<sup>29</sup> Gerald Dennis Vick appointed police officer September 18, 1989, promoted to sergeant July 31, 1999; fatally injured by gunfire May 6, 2005. Receive the Metal of Valor 1991, 1997, and 2005.

<sup>30</sup> Matthew Louis Toupal was appointed police officer September 18, 1989; promoted to sergeant February 12, 2000; commander January 15, 2011; senior commander May 31, 2014, deputy chief June 25, 2016.

KC: You move into Investigations in 1997 and you've kind of stayed in Investigations and you became a Sergeant in '97. What made you decide to take the test and move up the ranks?

TE: Oh, I didn't want to.

KC: Who kicked you into it?

TE: [Laughs] Tom Foss<sup>31</sup> was my Patrol Boss in the Eastern District. I had him and Frank Foster<sup>32</sup>, who was—he worked a midnight shift, but because I worked until four in the morning, I would start out with Tom Foss and then ultimately, it would be like Frank Foster. But Tom Foss told me to take the test, and I said, “No. I love my job.” Things had changed a little because Ron Ryan's and Tim Jones's<sup>33</sup> death had already happened.

KC: August 26, 1994.

TE: Mm-hmm. That made work different, life different.

KC: It was a pretty rocky time on the East Side after Ryan and Jones were killed.

TE: It was. I don't think everyone even in the police department can realize the full impact losing someone you love, in that manner, can have. Because I know the police department tried to address the human side of how that affected its

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<sup>31</sup> Thomas Richard Foss appointed patrolman January 21, 1963; promoted to sergeant October 14, 1972; and retired April 30, 1998.

<sup>32</sup> Frank Samuel Foster was appointed patrolman May 22, 1972; promoted to sergeant May 4, 1989; retired August 30, 2002, and passed August 2007.

<sup>33</sup> Timothy J. Jones was appointed police officer October 31, 1978; fatally injured by gunfire while searching for the suspect of Officer Ron Ryan's murder August 26, 1994.

employees, but I'm telling you, I cried on my way to work for months after that. I remember getting a call to a known gangster house within the week after that happened, and I knew those gangsters and they knew me. I remember walking up the sidewalk and it was an unenclosed front porch and people were hanging out. As I walked up, it just must have been on my face. I had a porchload of gangsters say, "Are you okay? Are you okay?" and I remember saying, "Yeah." And as I said "Yeah," I was trying to fight the tears, because there's something about emotions when someone recognizes that you hurt, that it brings those emotions out even more. They said, "We'll go inside." And they turned around and they went inside. That was so amazing to me. I'll tell you, two, three months before Ronnie was killed, he had introduced me to a guy on the East Side who had just gotten out of prison. Huge guy—Donel Walker. Probably last year, he ended up getting arrested. I went to interview him, and I asked him if he remembered me, and I asked him if he remembered Ronnie introducing me to him. He said [chuckles], he said, "Yes, I do. Ronnie said, 'This is my little red and you need to take care of her.'" And he said, "And I remember the day that Ronnie was killed." And we sat and talked about it and I had this six foot three guy, who's been in prison and now was in jail for a gun incident, in tears talking about it. I mean those events are far-reaching. The impact is far-reaching.

KC: Well, you'd obviously been working overnights with Ronnie.

TE: Mm-hmm. That night.

KC: That night?

TE: Mm-hmm. And he wasn't feeling good that night. And I remember getting a call in the morning and it was my daughter's father's sister, who lived over in the 1100 block of Fourth Street at the time. She had gotten up and was driving to work in the morning and had passed by the scene. All she saw was a squad car, and she knew that I worked nights, and she knew I worked on the East Side, and she was worried that it was me, so she woke me up. I had only been sleeping a couple hours, and I turned on the news, and I started texting Ronnie. Now at the time, it was a pager. He had a pager. And you know how if you use certain numbers, you can make it look like words in a pager. I started sending words that I knew he would know it was me, and then just paging him with my number. Paging him with my number, paging him with my number, and I never got an answer.



Ronnie Ryan, Jr

KC: So you knew before it was announced.

TE: Yeah, I knew.

KC: You probably knew when you started paging him.

TE: Yeah. Yeah, I knew the answer.

KC: Did you go in that day?

TE: I went in that night. I had called and was told that we still needed our regular shifts and, you know, I started at six. So I wasn't there during the day, and I felt bad about that. I felt guilty.

KC: They needed fresh people.

TE: They did. They did need fresh people. I don't know how fresh I was. I spent the day balling. And that's that crying that I don't know when else you cry that hard—where you actually ball, deep inside, with sadness.

KC: At what point was it confirmed?

TE: When I called in I asked, and it was confirmed. And then I was wondering, you know—then your mind starts working—where are [his parents] Ron and Kelly? Where's his sister Maria? Where's his wife Annie? You know, you start—where is everybody? How are they?

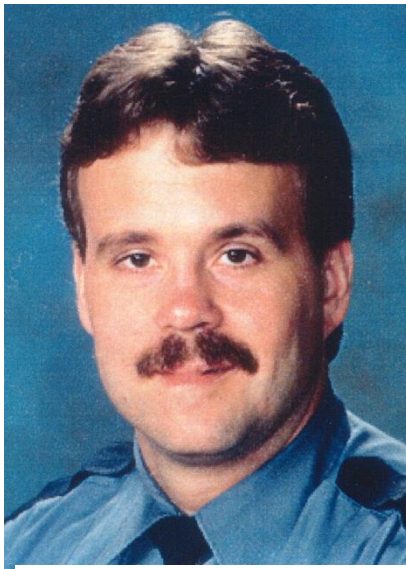
KC: What's it like standing in formation for a friend?

TE: [Sighs] I have mixed feelings about it. It's an honor, and it's the honorable thing to do. I mean, I tell you, the first time you see a procession over an officer killed in line of duty, it is powerful. You can't ever forget citizens and children lining the streets. I find myself conflicted and not for every funeral that I've attended, but I knew Ronnie before he was a police officer, and I loved him. I loved him. A part of me wanted to just grieve and be at that funeral as just Trish, not as a member of the Saint Paul Police Department. And not that I think it's wrong to, because I was proud to be there, but it's hard to stand and try to be stoic. And I remember that I couldn't be. I remember having not enough Kleenex, and they were so soggy and trying to shove them in my pockets. Try to look like you're not crying when you can't stop the tears from rolling down your face and all the

sadness that you're feeling in your heart, and then you're wondering in your head if people are thinking something about you, because you can't stop the tears from rolling down your face. I was conflicted. And I was—not that I want to partake in it anyway, so I don't even know why I got mad, but Ronnie worked midnights. I worked late starts [shift]. For the midnight [shift] people, I think they had someone from EAP come in and talk to them. I think they were going to make sure that they were all partnered up with somebody when they were working after that. I remember thinking, "Boy, you guys got it wrong. Boy, are you guys missing people who are really devastated because of this."

KC: And not seeing his academy class, not recognizing his friends.

TE: Right. But you know, Ronnie and Tim both had so many friends. I mean, they were both so popular and you know, you really can't blame the police department. It is kind of like how do you whittle down—how do you come up with a group that we can focus on. So I get that. The rational part of me gets that. I understand that. When you're so sad, you don't think that way.



Sergeant Jerry Vick  
1996

KC: Yes. And then about nine years later, Jerry Vick. You had worked on the East Side with him.

TE: Well, you know what? I was a homicide investigator then.

KC: So you were investigating—

TE: And it was a completely different experience. Being the investigator, when you see so much sadness from families and you felt that loss—that deep, never ever want to go there again kind of loss. And you

know how important it is for families to have answers and to try to get this whatever we call justice. To me, it's a fake thing, because I don't think there really is any true justice, but it's what you need—I think families need, at least initially. They can't know from the beginning that sending someone away for the rest of their lives is never going to take away the pain and the sadness and the loss, but I think it's a step, so initially you have something. This will maybe help me get better, this will help me maybe—you know little steps. For Jerry, I was doing my job. I think because of that, I saw the emotional side, but it's almost like I was looking out through a window and not really experiencing it myself. Does that make sense?

KC: Absolutely.

TE: Because I was too focused on the task.

KC: So you were one of the primary investigators.

TE: I was one of them. I think the primary on that was Steve Frazer,<sup>34</sup> but there was so much work to do and the video. I got called in later on that. I got called in late on that, because Joe Strong had been with Jerry. Joe Strong and I had had an eight year relationship and had lived together. I think—I don't know if it was intentional—no, I know, it was intentional, because we had only been split up for I think like a year then. They were reacting, *Oh no, can we call Trish? Should we do that?* kind of thing. But it was fine. It was fine.

KC: When did you get the call? Jerry was killed at two-something in the morning.

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<sup>34</sup>Steven Joseph Frazer was appointed police officer October 7, 1996; promoted sergeant September 9, 2000; commander August 27, 2011, senior commander July 30, 2016.

TE: Right, but I didn't get called in until around six in the morning. I think, like I said, initially they weren't going to call me and then, too, it was more work to do and more than what the people called in could handle, so they called me.

KC: And then one of your primary mentees was the first officer on the scene.

TE: Amanda Heu<sup>35</sup>.

KC: Yes. How were you able to support her?

TE: By that time, Amanda had developed a circle of people that she had come on with, that she over the years had become friends with. You know, there's a line that you can't cross when you're doing an investigation. You need to be the investigator at that point. Saint Paul is one of few that investigates their own officer involved shootings, critical incidents. Other than hugging her and telling her that if there was anything she needed and then periodically checking in—"Doing okay?" That's all I could do. I mean I listened, but you can't ask questions, because you can't mess up an investigation, and that's what has to come first.

KC: You referenced that you dated someone within the department and had a long-term relationship.

TE: Mm-hmm.

KC: What's it like going into that and then leaving it?

TE: Um, you know, Joe Strong and I had known each other since—oh, heavens to Betsy, probably 1981 I want to say.

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<sup>35</sup> Amanda Kaonouchi Heu was appointed Community Liaison Officer January 7, 2002; police officer February 21, 2004; promoted sergeant August 9, 2014.



KC: Even before you started working at the department.

TE: Yeah. Yeah, I worked at Sears part time. I was working at the state, still full time. In fact, I think at one point I was working at the state full-time and then the police department weekends, overnights, and then Sears a few days after work. Joe was not yet a cop. He was working in security for Sears. In fact, later on, Paul Paulos would also work in security for Sears. Mike Carter,<sup>36</sup> who recently retired, worked security for Sears. Bob Patsy<sup>37</sup>—I mean there's a host of Saint Paul cops who had worked security there, but Joe wasn't a cop yet. I think while he was working there, he would get hired by the Ramsey County Sheriff's office—him and Randy Schwartz. And I think within like a year or so, they ended up getting hired by the police department. So we were just buds. We were just friends. Joe at the time was married, had two kids, lived in the Mac-Groveland area. We would hang out sometimes in group settings, but he was just a friend. And then Joe was in K-9 and I was working the Eastside. So it happens when I bought my house, unbeknownst to me when I bought it, it was one house away from where Joe lived.

KC: With his wife?

TE: No, he was divorced by then. He had been divorced for several years.

KC: Safe block in Saint Paul—two cops living on the street.

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<sup>36</sup> Michael Clark Carter was appointed police officer February 23, 1980; promoted to sergeant March 27, 1999; and retired September 30, 2010.

<sup>37</sup> Robert Richard Patsy was appointed patrolman November 2, 1964; promoted to sergeant September 6, 1975; and retired December 30, 1994.

TE: Yeah, definitely. Definitely. And he had his K-9 there. And it started out kind of—I mean, I knew he lived there and we both worked at the same place, but you know, we were friends, but I didn't go hang out. And my daughter loved—because he had a second German Shepherd, too. So my daughter would be out playing on the block because she was restricted to the block, walking down and riding her bike and what not.

KC: How old is she now?

TE: She has to be five, six probably. I remember her coming back one time with a chocolate chip cookie and a Diet Coke. The cookie was for her and the Diet Coke was for me, because I'm kind of a Diet Coke addict. We worked together, fine, no big deal. I don't know how we started seeing each other, it was so gradual. You know, we ended up going out with a group to a nightclub and we decided we were going to take swing dance lessons together. He didn't have anyone to take them with, I didn't have anyone to take them with, so we took them together and that's just kind of how it developed into a relationship. As far as work, I don't think anybody knew that we were seeing each other for quite some time. But then, ultimately, we moved in together, so when everybody would drive by and see his dog in my yard, it was pretty obvious, I guess.

KC: Is that hard to then break up, still working together?

TE: In the mix of that relationship, I had been promoted and was working in homicide. Joe was still—no, Joe ultimately had been promoted, too, and I thought he was working in A-cop. I didn't think it was going to be a big deal. I really didn't. Because I don't think either of us had shared a lot of anything bad. You know, as far as I knew, we hadn't badmouthed each other to others at the police department. But we had property together and division of property is

sometimes ugly. I know that he had to have talked to some people, because attitudes of some people I noticed changed toward me.

KC: And so many people often think they have to take sides.

TE: Right. Right, which is silly. It's silly. And it's neither here nor there. We both had been there for a long time. We both had had a lot of friends. We had a lot of mutual friends. And my thought in the whole thing was that's fine. If you feel like you have to take a side, that's okay. I'm really just here to do my job.

KC: I hear how much you worked, how busy you were. Did you have friends outside of the department?

TE: Not many. I really haven't had a life outside the department. I have put everything into this job. It's—I had a conversation with Anita Muldoon<sup>38</sup> the other day and I said, "You know, I think I'm going to go see how much longer I have to work. I mean, I know I'm still young, but I'm getting to the point in my life where I think I'm ready to start having a life and friends and go places and do things and sit around and knit all day. Make things, be creative, maybe read a book just for fun instead of reading volumes of police reports."

I have friends from, like, high school who I've kept in touch with now with Facebook, but a handful. A handful, that's it. I mostly hang with cops.

KC: How old is your daughter now?

TE: She'll be twenty-two in February.

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<sup>38</sup> Anita Muldoon was appointed police officer October 7, 1996; promoted to sergeant October 6, 2001; and retired October 21, 2011.

KC: So she's probably out of the house.

TE: She's not [both laugh]. No. Part of me thinks that it's going to be years and years and years before she's out of the house. She works at the police department—part-time, overnights, in the Records Units.

KC: [laughs] Does she want to become a cop?

TE: She does not want to be a cop. She has no desire to be a cop. She wants to be a lawyer, which curiously is something that I always wanted to be. I never really wanted to be a cop. I always wanted to be a lawyer. She doesn't want to be a criminal lawyer. She's into the sciences and the earth and keeping things clean and healthy. So that's the path.

KC: Environmental law.

TE: Yes.

KC: What were some of the challenges raising a daughter, working those strange shifts, working homicide? How did you, being the primary parent—it sounds like the only parents affect her growing up—affect her perspective of police and of the world?

TE: When my daughter was probably seven or eight years old, she said to me — you know you always have those conversations with your kids, “What do you want to be when you grow up?” And I don't know if I asked the question or if someone else had asked the question, and she said, “I don't know, but I don't want to be like my mom.” And my heart dropped, because I thought I had been a good mom, and I thought I had been a good provider, and I thought I had set a good example. You do the right thing for the right reasons. So somebody said, “Why don't you want to be like your mom?” And she said, “Because I don't ever

want to work that much.” You know, hindsight’s 20/20 and I look back now and because I got promoted when she was so young and my first promotion was in sex crimes. Not a good place to work when you have a young daughter. My daughter didn’t take the school bus. My daughter didn’t stay over at people’s house unless I really knew them well. I was—it creates a paranoia almost. Not that I would pass it on to her. I wouldn’t tell her about it, but you become super aware of just how prevalent those crimes are and how children are so easily victimized. It certainly changed, affected, impacted what my daughter was and wasn’t allowed to do, because I was so aware. My daughter will never let me forget—you know, then I transferred into Homicide—what in 1999, I think? Yeah, ‘99 I transferred into Homicide. I had gone into Sex Crimes in ‘97 and then in Homicide. My daughter was in sixth grade and she went to Saint Agnes.

KC: Where you had gone?

TE: Where I had gone. Only I had taken the bus or walked and I drove her every day. And boy, there were some trying times during that. But anyway, she was in sixth grade and you know, Saint



Sergeant Englund 2000

Agnes always does the grade school Christmas show. Most schools do. It was the Christmas celebration and my daughter was so excited because she had a solo part and she hadn’t had a solo part before. So I was working and I was so relieved, when I was sitting on the bleachers and the show hadn’t started yet, because I was late for everything. I’m telling you, I was late for everything. My daughter would be the last one to get picked up at school or—I mean it was horrid, you know. You’d feel bad. Poor child, but she always knew I was coming.

And I sat down and my father was there and the Heu girls were there—all excited, okay we're going to watch the show. And it hadn't yet started and my pager went off.

At the time John Vomastek<sup>39</sup> was my boss, so I called, and he said, "Trish, we need you. There was a murder at the Mini Market up on Ruth and Minnehaha." That's my store. I mean, I go there. It's on the East Side. I know those people. But this is my daughter's show and you know there are lots of people who work in Homicide. I'm not the only one. So I was torn. And I was in nice clothes and a nice wool coat, and because I was already done for the day, I had my own car. I looked at my dad, and I looked at Amanda Heu, and I said, "I have to go. I just have to go. Please take pictures and tell Keirsten I'm sorry."

I went out there and it was cold. I saw the owner of the store, and he saw me and he hugged me, and it's kind of like, you're full of blood and you're hugging me. But he's freezing and he's standing outside, so I put him in my own car and I remember John Vomastek showed up at that scene for some reason, and I just remember saying, "Oh, John, oh, John, I'm going to be in trouble for this one." "What do you mean?" "Well no, not at work, but my family." And I'll tell you to this day, my daughter hasn't forgotten about it—that I missed her one solo. Her last show, because she only did those shows up until sixth grade. And I

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<sup>39</sup> John Edward Vomastek was appointed police officer March 13, 1978; promoted to sergeant June 1, 1988; acting lieutenant August 2, 1990; return to sergeant November 4, 1990; acting lieutenant August 14, 1994; return to sergeant September 29, 1994; title change to inspector sergeant January 8, 1995; return to sergeant July 13, 1995; lieutenant July 14, 1995; title change to commander January 1, 2000; title change to senior commander April 28, 2001; return to commander June 29, 2002; title change to senior commander June 12, 2004; and retired August 31, 2011.

missed it. And I don't know, I can say all the I'm sorries in the world, but you know what? When you put that much into your job and you say it so often, it kind of loses its meaning after a while.



My dad brought Keirsten  
to the White Bear Avenue Parade 1995

and everything was a rush. Rush to the game, hurry and watch the game so I can rush back to work or get home and write some reports or do this, that and the other thing.

KC: Well, Homicide is demanding.

TE: It is demanding.

KC: I know, because I was a single mom. And when you have a job that doesn't have the flexibility, it can feel like a no-win situation.

TE: It is. I know I've missed a lot. I know I have. Although I think I made it to every softball game and every volleyball game. And I remember telling her at one point when she said something about another student's mom, and I said, "Hey, I've made every game. I've been there." And granted, I think maybe the part that was missing is it wasn't go to the game

and then go hang out for pizza or something, it was kind of structured for me

KC: How many years were you in Homicide?

TE: I was there from 1999 until 2006 and then I went to the Gang Unit and worked as a Task Force Officer, really with the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, and Firearms for two years. So then I went back into Homicide in 2008 and just came back out of there again in late August of 2010.



Sergeant Englund 2010

KC: Are there any cases you can talk about?  
Any investigations?

TE: Yeah. But I'm not sure—you know what, when you work murders for so long, or even when you've a cop for so long, I think you lose sight of what's even interesting to other people, because it becomes so day to day for you that you don't think of what you do as particularly interesting or informative. I like talking about the law. That's what I get a kick out of talking about. I love the law. And I love how the law affects criminal investigations—good, bad, or otherwise. That's what gets me excited. That's what I think is interesting. And I don't think it's that interesting for a lot of other people, because I don't think they care so much about the law, but they like to hear about a scene you went to and what it was like to work a scene or spending hours with a suspect who denies and denies and denies and ultimately he admits. That's what people find interesting, but I just don't find that interesting.

KC: Well my illusion is that there is a lot of detail groundwork anytime you do an interesting issue, because you don't know what minute piece might take you in another direction.



TE: There is. More so than anybody realizes.

KC: Was there a case that stuck in your mind that—

TE: Here's an example of just how what seems so difficult can really be so easy. Doing an investigation, you have to keep your mind open. You have to be intuitive. You have to be smart. You have to pay attention to the law. There are things that you do all the time for every case. There are basics that you do. You know, you always order the 911 tape. You listen to it for anything that maybe the officers didn't put in their reports. You read everybody's reports. You go to crime scenes. You write search warrants. You look for evidence. Those are standard, what people see on the movies or on television shows all the time. It was a murder that I wasn't initially assigned to work. It was assigned to Neil Nelson<sup>40</sup> and Rich Munoz<sup>41</sup>. It was on the East Side, the lower East Side, and what happened was a neighbor lady had seen the children out playing. One was dressed in Mom's robe. It was afternoon and they were still in pajamas. Ultimately, I think it was the five-year-old boy who said, "My mom won't wake up." That set in motion a police response and they would find her dead, unclothed I think. She was Latisha Barnes.

Neil had called me in, because I had worked in Sex Crimes and I had some expertise with doing forensic interviews with children, because that's important. You can't lead a child to say something. When you first come in you say okay, you know, give me some information, just the basics. I interviewed the children

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<sup>40</sup> Neil Paul Nelson was appointed police officer July 11, 1977; promoted to sergeant June 15, 1986; promoted to commander June 12, 2004; and retired September 30, 2010.

<sup>41</sup> Richard Munoz was appointed police officer July 11, 1977; promoted to sergeant July 13, 1991; and retired April 30, 2008.

and then Neil had said, “This is all we have is the suspect’s name is Reece.” They had been thinking that it was a last name, for some reason and I went off on my own and I went into the computer and I found a Maurice that had been associated with the victim. I printed it out, and I walked out, and I said, “I’m thinking this is your suspect.” And it was! So sometimes, digging, digging, digging and doing all this hard work, and it can just be a fluke that either because of one particular investigator’s mindset, they’re kind of tunnel-visioned in how they’re thinking or the path they’re going down and just bringing in a fresh person who isn’t of that same mindset or hasn’t been in with you on it and goes their own way can change the course of an investigation.

KC: And how much intuition? Just kind of intuition, guidance that may take you there.

TE: Some of it’s that. Some of it is that. But for me, when they said Reece, right away to me that was a Maurice. I don’t know if partly—I hate to say it, but partly a woman thing, because we think of names more like that? You know, if you told me your name was Sue, I might wonder if it’s really Susan or Suzanne, where—and I can’t speak for men, but I wonder if a man might just take it that your name is Sue. Or if a guy told me his name was Terry, I might wonder if it’s really Terrence.

KC: And guys call each other by last names more than women do.

TE: True. True. Especially in the police world. We refer to people by last names all the time. That’s kind of who you become is your last name.

KC: While you were working in Homicide—the secretary in Homicide was murdered by her children’s father, in another city—in Eagan.

TE: Yeah.

KC: And you were very involved in the support of the family. What was that like for this small department?

TE: [sighs] Boy, you're making me so sad today. After Ron Ryan was killed—and I don't want to minimize Tim Jones being killed, but you know, Ronnie was my Ronnie. Other than having gotten into a relationship with Joe, I hadn't been close to anybody. I think it's that defense mechanism where it's too risky. But Marie Heu<sup>42</sup> was such a joy—so much fun to be around because she was in such an ongoing state of discovery about life and what America had to offer still. Marie was born in France. She was French and Spanish. She ended up meeting a Hmong man who would become her husband, Joseph, over in France. She had been a teenager, who had been going through some difficulties, times at home and whatnot. She came from a rather large family. Ended up marrying him and coming with his family [to America]. She spoke French and came with this Hmong family to America, when they first settled in California. Just by virtue of being around a Hmong speaking family, she learned to speak Hmong. She also spoke Spanish and then also learned to speak English, because she had to. Kind of typical of the Hmong culture, I think, they had spent a few years in California and then had moved to North Carolina, where she had gotten a job I think working for the police department in Denver, North Carolina, if I recall, doing some clerical work. I think that pushed her more. She was going to get an education. She was going to try and make something of herself, so she wasn't

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<sup>42</sup> Marie Heu was appointed Clerk Typist II May 23, 1998, and died August 21, 2000.

enveloped in that little Hmong family, the tightness so much. She was just such a dear.

She had talked to me a little bit about problems at home, about some violence in the household. And you know, with my history, I really don't want to see anyone have to endure that. But I also know it's not one of those things where you just tell someone walk away and expect them to walk away. I know that everyone has to take their own path. When they're comfortable doing something then that's when they can do it. You can't push, so all you can do is be there and be understanding. And be there again, and be there again, and be there again. I know that she was scared, because she had told me. She had talked to me about getting a gun and we had discussed the dangers, the responsibilities that went along with that.

You know, that was another one of those. I'm telling you, the phone rings at six in the morning, it's just not good. Because it's kind of late for the drunken brawl street murder and it means somebody you just love dearly, something's happened to them. I remember getting that call and getting up and jumping in the shower and bawling in the shower. It brought back that whole Ronnie [Ryan] thing. It was that deep sadness. And still some disbelief. And then it was going in and it wasn't our investigation. We weren't large and in charge. We didn't get to direct. We didn't get to tell someone what to do. Like it or not, Saint Paul is a good police department and boy we think we're the "IT." We really do. Eagan doesn't have many murders. I don't think Eagan had a murder in I don't know how long.

KC: Had they been asking for your help?

TE: They asked for information. I had information about Marie's car. I had information about Marie's husband. I knew some stuff, because she had shared things about where he had worked—because they didn't know initially if this SUV [vehicle]—I asked the question—where is her SUV... "It's not here." "Okay, than he must have it. Somebody has it. It would be there." I provided information. We provided information.

KC: They come up and talk to you at HQ--Headquarters or they invited you to—

TE: No, it was phone conversations initially. And then I do remember going there. I went to Eagan and was interviewed. I remember being there when they told Amanda and the girls.

KC: Since this time you're not doing the investigation, are you able to be "the friend"?

TE: Yeah, yeah, very much so. And you know, I really didn't know Amanda. I had met her once, within a month prior I think. Marie had gotten a call from one of her daughters, she had an order for protection at the time and the daughter said, "Dad's outside." So I had told Marie, she was crying, and I said, "Go ahead and call the police. I will drive you home. We'll make sure your daughters are fine," because the girls were scared and they were hiding in a room. So I had driven her there. I met Amanda then. She tells me she doesn't like me very much [both laugh].

KC: How old is Amanda at this point?

TE: Amanda Heu's eighteen when her mom was killed.

KC: There are two younger daughters.

TE: Well, at the time it was eighteen, thirteen, and eight if I recall correctly. Yeah, Amanda, Jennifer, Stephanie.

But yeah, she didn't like me. I think she didn't like me because I was—it was the strangest thing I've ever encountered. Eagan police had come to take the report and I kid you not, the officers came and went at least three times. They kept having to break away to go to something more urgent. That's just not how we do things in Saint Paul. I mean if somebody's—somebody's got to really be dying—there must be an officer down if you're leaving a Domestic-related call that you should be taking a report on. Something serious has to be happening. But I think that's the difference between maybe a smaller, urban department, where they don't have the resources. And in my mind, I don't know what else—an accident or something. It's just not as important. They have medics to go to that. Just the difference between the two departments. I remember speaking my mind, so I think Amanda thought I came off pretty hardheaded. She said she didn't like me much.

KC: How did you get so involved with supporting her and—the local newspapers certainly described that you became a primary support for her to get custody of her younger siblings and go to college and become a police officer in Saint Paul.

TE: You know what? Marie was my friend. And at the time, because she's separated, she was being a single mom. I knew that she didn't have any other family other than her husband's family. And from early on in that investigation, I believed that his family played some role. Part of your responsibility as a friend and also as a police officer is to do what you can to protect people. I thought, "Oh my god, what if it was me? Who would be there for my daughter?" And I have a small family, but I have family here. But I still thought what if it was similar

circumstances? What if something happened to me and the people that my daughter should be able to rely on most were suspect? I would certainly hope that someone, anyone, please would come forward to take care of mine. It was just what I had to do. It was just the right thing to do.

KC: Did you take them into your home?

TE: No. There was talk of that, but Amanda had decided right away she was going to try and get custody of the girls. So we sought advice from legal counsel. It was decided, especially because of her young age, that it would be best—because then it would be like I was taking care of the girls, so it was decided it would be best if Amanda lived independently, at least to some degree. And that's when Neil Nelson's family stepped up. They had a separate mother-in-law's apartment in their home. So Amanda and the girls rented that space from the Nelsons.

Wow, what a learning experience, from dealing with the French Consulate to get Marie's body shipped back to her home. The Chicago police stepping up, because there were all these parameters that you had to abide by in order ship it, and we were going to ship it and we were going to have to pay goo gabs of money to get the casket lifted so it could be inspected, and I think it was Kevin Moore<sup>45</sup> who made a call. Chicago cops stepped up and went and hand-lifted it out, so that her casket could be inspected by the French consulate in Chicago, before it could be shipped on to France. You know, it wasn't just me, it was, boy, a whole lot of people coming together.

We did the benefit and we knew—I knew. I mean, what do you do? You have no money. Here's this nice girl and she's going to go to school and she's selling

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<sup>45</sup> Kevin Joseph Moore was appointed police officer February 23, 1980; promoted to sergeant September 22, 2001, and retired July 29, 2011.

knives for a living, in the home—meet with you and show off knives and sell them. It was just the thing to do. It was the thing to do.

KC: How was it for your daughter?

TE: Hard. And I think I was too hard on her sometimes. I remember, I spent a lot of time with Amanda initially. I mean not just a week, but months. I remember Amanda would call at three and four in the morning, which is to be expected. She's a young girl and doesn't know what to do. You can't even trust your own family, and you become suspect of everyone, and your father has killed your mother and [you're] trying to get custody. And you have your family now saying horrific things about you in the public—her Hmong family. You don't know who to believe or who to trust. I remember my daughter saying, "Mom, you know between work and the Heu girls I never see you anymore." I remember saying, "Well, Keirsten, you know what? At least you have a mom. They don't have a mom, they don't have a dad, so this is what I have to do right now." And I look back now and I think she was still pretty young. That had to be hard for her. She's put up with a lot.

KC: I bet she's strong from it.

TE: She is. I think she is. She's got a little bit more—I like that she is more sensitive though, than I am.

KC: Or maybe than you could afford to be.

TE: Maybe. Maybe, yeah.

KC: What was it like for you working in Sex Crimes somewhat early in your career—or at least in your investigative career and you had your own experience?



TE: You know, I think it's one of the things that made me a good investigator. I remember there were a few old school guys in there when I first went in there and I was young and young in my career. There's no doubt that—it wasn't a secret that some people thought, "What's she doing in here? Why'd she get promoted so young? She hasn't done her time. She should be starting out in juvenile. She shouldn't be promoted right into sex crimes." Somehow that I wasn't salty enough. I shouldn't be there.

KC: Who put you into sex crimes?

TE: Chief Finney.

KC: How did it feel when you were told that was where you were going to go?

TE: Funny story—I think it's kind of funny. You know when you get promoted, you're going to have your meeting with the chief, and that's where he's going to ask you where you want to go and you're going to have good answers. Again, I had been around for a long time and while I respected the chief—utmost respect for him—I wasn't afraid of him. I had had interactions with him before he was chief. In fact, Finney I think was the person who had started the whole parking enforcement program and I was one of the first PEOs—Parking Enforcement Officer. He had always been encouraging. When Finney smiled—Finney had a huge smile, and he would light up the room. Granted, when he was angry, everybody knew that he was angry, as well, and I had seen that part of him, but I hadn't experienced it, because I don't think I had ever done anything to merit his wrath. So I felt kind of comfortable.

I remember him calling me to say, "Yeah Trish, it's the chief. Can you come in and talk to me?" And I said, "Okay, when would you like me to come?"

He said, "Well, right now." I said, "I was just on my way out the door, I'm not in my uniform. Is that okay?" I think that was kind of unheard of, but he said, "Sure, that's fine." So I went down to his office and he said, "Congratulations on doing well on the test," that whole spiel. And he said, "So, where would you like to go?" I said, "You want the truth?" And he said, "Yeah." And I said, "Well, I'd really like to go to Sex Crimes or Homicide." He said, "[chortle as if the chief] Well, Trish, you know that's not where people normally start out." I said, "I understand that, but you asked me the question, so I'm giving you my honest answer. I could tell you why I think I should go there, but if it's for naught or you don't want to hear it, that's fine." He said, "Well, how would you feel about going to Juvenile?" And I couldn't help it, I just went [sound of disgust], like that. He kind of laughed and he said, "Why do people say that?" I gave him my reason. I told him that at the time I didn't have a lot of faith in the Juvenile justice system, so that was frustrating to me. But if that's where he wanted me to go, that's where I would go, and I would do a good job.

When I walked out of his office, that's where I was going. I was fine with that. That was okay. I think two days later, I was at home again and I got a call from him and he said, "Trish, this is the chief." "Yes, sir." And he said, "Did you say you wanted to go to Sex Crimes?" And I said, "Well, as a matter of fact, yes, I did, sir." And he said, "Okay, that's where you're going to start on Saturday." I don't know the rhyme or reason behind how that happened. I suspect that something else happened where something was going to be moved out, and they needed a last minute fill-in, and it just happened to be good timing for me.

I went in there, and I knew some people weren't happy with me being there. But I'll tell you, one guy that was there, Cregg Brackman,<sup>46</sup> who was a colorful guy and I don't know if you know anything about Cregg, but Cregg was known for being very well dressed and he ended up leaving the department amid some controversy, but I tell you he was patient and understanding and taught me unlike anyone that you don't give up on an investigation. And made me see in comparison to how some work was being done, that you can work just as hard to make a case not a good case as you can to make it a good case. Because I saw people and heard people talking to victims, "Well, you were drinking. Well, you were drunk. Well this. Well that." And it made me so angry and opened my eyes to how some sex crimes victims aren't treated like they should be, and made me that more driven to do the right thing.

While I was in there, I happened upon—the Asian gangs were just starting and I got involved. Information was coming in and we had a few cases about young Hmong girls who had been sexually assaulted. And boy, at that time in the Hmong culture, it was so hard for those girls to report, because whether it was your fault or not, it was your fault and you needed to marry the person. It wasn't the guy's fault. He then was entitled to you and was expected to pay your family, and if you didn't marry him, you were dirt and worthless and no good anymore. Boy, it was really a trying time to try and get that message across culturally, that it [rape] is not acceptable.

A little girl named Cherry was brave enough to tell me what had happened to her. She had been gang raped, and I believed her, and I was so

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<sup>46</sup> Cregg Alan Brackman was appointed police officer July 11, 1977; promoted to sergeant July 13, 1991; and retired November 24, 2003.

outraged inside, personally, because based on what she explained, it wasn't just her, there were other girls, too. It was a symptom of what was happening. You know, if it's happening here, it's one place, and there's multiple victims at one time, it's a problem. I ended up partnering with Rich Straka,<sup>47</sup> who was working Hmong gangs at the time, and we ended building one of the first Asian gang rape cases.

KC: And successfully prosecuting.

TE: And successfully prosecuting it. Yeah. Yeah.

And that kind of changed my career. It reinforced the need to be understanding to a victim and to believe a victim, and even when some things don't make sense, to keep asking the questions, because not all victims are able to explain. It's kind of like talking to a child sometimes. They don't know what the law is. They don't know how much information you really need. That's your job as an investigator, to get it out of them. And then it's your job to prove what they're saying.

KC: About the same time, I was doing a gang research project with Sgt. John Harrington.<sup>48</sup>

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<sup>47</sup> Richard William Straka was appointed police officer February 16, 1993; promoted sergeant March 17, 2001, commander May 14, 2016.

<sup>48</sup> John Mark Harrington was appointed police officer July 11, 1977; promoted to sergeant September 7, 1983; acting lieutenant January 4, 1997; lieutenant November 1, 1997; title changed to commander January 1, 2000; senior commander July 1, 2000; assistant chief May 8, 2004; chief July 1, 2004; and retired June 14, 2010. Elected to the Minnesota State Senate from Saint Paul 2010-2012. Appointed Chief of the Metro Transit Commission September 4, 2012.

We got funding for an after school project, so we were working with Sgt. Bill Snyder<sup>49</sup> and he was doing runaway Hmong gangs and I had an after school program for Hmong girls. He'd call me in the middle of the night, and I'd go out and you wouldn't say, "Were you raped?" You'd say, "Did they make you take your clothes off?" It was challenging interactions. It was very different.

TE: Very different. I remember with Cherry, not once—not once did her parents want to have a sit down with me. Not once. I remember having to travel up North to a home for wayward children, where another victim was. Her family wanted nothing to do with her. They didn't believe her. I remember working with the FBI and that was when we learned how these girls were being moved from Saint Paul to Wisconsin, to Philadelphia, to California. Sad. So sad. So ugly.

KC: Did working in Sex Crimes help you with your own healing or were there some difficult times where things came up for you from your personal experience?

TE: You know, I don't recall any difficult times. But I recall when others around me were doubtful of victims, I think it was the reason that I continued to believe or I continued to push. You know what's amazing? We all learn from our own experiences and we all do things or don't do things based on our own experiences. I like to think that as dreadful as some things in my life have been, it's given me some insight and some knowledge and some understanding. That's made me a better cop. So rather than looking at it as poor me and life's been so hard, it's kind of been used as a tool, I guess. I've made it so far, and I'm going to hear you, and I'm going to do what I can for you, and I'm going to do what I can for you, and you're going to be able to make it, too.

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<sup>49</sup> William Arthur Snyder appointed police officer September 8, 1975; promoted to sergeant April 8, 1988; resigned January 8, 1999. Appointed Ramsey County deputy sheriff January 11, 1999; deputy sergeant July 2002; and retired January 1, 2010.

KC: Now, this last year our former Chief John Harrington acknowledged the quality of a cop you are and you were named detective of the year.

TE: Yeah.

KC: And that was for obviously all the years, but also for a specific project you had worked on.

TE: Yes. And you want me to talk about that?

KC: Yes.

TE: In 2007, I was working in the Gang Unit and I was asked to write a grant—to do some research and write a grant. I am not a grant writer and I had never written a grant. I had never read a grant. I had never wanted to read or write a grant, but I was given I think a week or two.

KC: [laughs] Not much time.

TE: No, it's not much time. So I did a bunch of research into best practices. I mean, I knew what the problem was. I had been working in the Gang Unit and I also had history working in Homicide. I was now in the Gang Unit with a focus on guns. My focus had been on guns for years. I was familiar with the players—very familiar with the most active gangs at the time, which were—I backed that up by looking at the numbers actually, the Selby-Siders and the Eastside Boys. Wrote a grant. And I think no one thought we were going to get it. Quite frankly, that was going to be fine with me, because if you get the grant then you have to do what you say you're going to do [both laugh]. I was happy just doing my own little thing, but we got the grant. Getting started was difficult for a variety of reasons. I learned a lot of lessons.

KC: And the grant was to address guns within gangs?

TE: It was guns, but mostly violent crime. It wasn't just to focus on the worst of the worst. It was to identify the worst of the worst, the most active members of those gangs, and then to not only go after them with aggressive enforcement, detection, but also to offer an alternative to that lifestyle—jobs, support, outreach from community organizations—to kind of give them two paths. “Do you want the high road? Do you want the low road? Because we're looking at you and you're going to go down one road. Maybe unlike what other people have tried, and that is to force you to take a certain road, we're saying this is going to happen. You are on our radar. We have looked at your past. We know your patterns, we know your friends, we know your associates, we know where you hang, we know who your baby's mamma is. We've developed a point structure, you got a lot of points. So you're going down this path or this path.”

KC: Enforcement or intervention.

TE: “And unlike whatever's happened to you before, we're telling you ahead of time that you're going to take one or the other and we're giving you the choice.”

KC: Did you go out and meet with some of them or have them arrested and have conversations?

TE: We held community meetings to notify them. Now the one with the Selby-Siders was not very well attended. Only had a couple of gang members show for that. Lots of community members and community organizations, but only a couple of the gang members. I found with the Selby-Siders there was quite a bit of denial. And it amazed me—even from parents, grandparents. “Don't bother my grandson, he's not a gang member.” You want to say, “Sir, come and look at the

picture I'll paint for you. How many times have you been shot at? How many shootings have you been involved in? How many times been stopped in the company of all these other known gang members? You're fooling yourself and you're not helping your grandson. Denial is not going to help anybody." In contrast, the Eastside and Dayton's Bluff and Mary Moore and others, who run the Cultural Awareness program over there were amazing and bought in hook, line and sinker, and wanted to be a part of that program. While we saw lots of Selby-Siders go to jail, we saw Eastside Boys getting jobs and many who are still employed and some even employed with the City of Saint Paul today. And changes being made. So it was a successful program and it's one that needs to continue.

But what I learned is that especially in this old hill area<sup>50</sup> of Saint Paul and working with members of the African-American community, they don't want to be told what they're going to do. They want input from the get-go. It seemed to me not to matter if it's a good idea or not. If they didn't get input from the get-go, than they weren't necessarily going to buy into it.

KC: And Saint Paul's Black community is unique.

TE: It is. It is and I learned that. I thought—naïve me—here I am, I'm in my forties. I grew up on Lexington and Charles. I have always thought that's as much my community, just because I'm not Black, it's still mine. I worked at the Dairy

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<sup>50</sup> Cathedral Hill neighborhood is (roughly from the John Ireland west to Lexington, between I-94 [Old Rondo] to Summit Avenue). It encompasses what remains of the "Rondo Neighborhood" (Rice/John Ireland to Marshall, to Lexington, to University)- a former diverse, but predominately Black since after WWII, neighborhood of the city. Rondo was the center of Saint Paul's Black community since the Civil War, but was nearly obliterated by the construction of Interstate 94 in the 1960s.



Queen,<sup>51</sup> I went to the pancake house, I walked up and down University Avenue. I went to the same school that Butch Benner<sup>52</sup> supported and I'm here, too, and this is important to me, too, because I know you're calling it your community, but it's my community, too. My grandma lived on Rondo! But it's different. And I accept that difference. I accept that and I've learned a lot. And boy, I tell you, Reverend Spence, who I know has been controversial at times, he —

KC: Daryl Spence is a controversial man.

TE: He is.

KC: But he has a huge heart.

TE: He has a heart of gold, and I think he's extremely well-intentioned, and he stuck with me despite all the criticism and backstabbing and whatnot, and I have to give him huge kudos.

KC: So the grant was successful in getting funded and in implementation.

TE: Correct.

KC: That's wonderful.

TE: It was. It was. And you know, even more so, it made a difference. It made a difference.

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<sup>51</sup> A Dairy Queen soft serve ice cream stand is still located at 450 N. Lexington Parkway at University Avenue.

<sup>52</sup> Cornelius "Butch" Benner III was appointed SPPD as stenographer December 8, 1969; patrolman January 4, 1971; promoted to sergeant August 15, 1982; and retired August 11, 1995.

KC: And it's interesting in some ways from a grant evaluation that one group chose to go enforcement and the other group chose intervention. It's a much more interesting final grant report to write.

TE: It is. Especially when you're talking—Saint Paul, we're not talking about a huge geographical area, and yet the cultures within the cultures, from one side of town to another are so very different.

KC: Yeah.

TE: And that was enlightening for me to see.

KC: What else in this career are you proud of that you've contributed?

TE: I'd like to think I've been a strong role model for women. I don't think when I started out—you know, like I said, I was kind of a loner. While I'm sure maybe internally there were some support systems. I guess I wasn't aware and I didn't know. Like I said, quite frankly, I thought I was immune to any of the good old boys clubbism, and I never experienced much of anything. I mean, a little bit here and there, like when I went into Sex Crimes, but I shrugged it off—"Go away and get out of my way, because I'm just going to keep doing my thing."

After Joe [Strong] and I split up—and Joe was pretty tight with the Federation. The Federation I think is kind of their own little club. It opened my eyes. I think because I was with Joe, even if some people didn't like what I was doing or the path my career was taking, or if they didn't like the fact that I was a female doing what I was doing, they kept their mouth shut out of respect for Joe. Not because of who I was. Not because I was capable. That was really eye-opening for me. Then I began to hear other women talk about their experiences. I don't know why—at what point—I became approachable by other women to talk

about it. Because I had not been a poor me, or poor women, or women are—I was always “We’ve got to buck up, we have to do our part, we do our share. We tow the line just like everybody else.” For the first time in my career, probably in about 2006—I think because I became aware, from personal stories—I started paying attention. From paying attention, I found that it’s not just a male versus female thing, but it’s to some degree, if you don’t fit in a certain mold—so you can be a White male, but be dorky or skinny or like science over lifting weights—you don’t fit in. And if you don’t fit in, you’re not in the club, and you get treated differently.

Then I had my own experience, which dumbfounded me, because I had been there so long. How do you work somewhere from 1983 until 2006 and have a history of excellence, of being a hard worker, of being a go-getter, of all of that, and suddenly find yourself being referred to as the redheaded bitch and having a supervisor who won’t talk to you directly, but goes to a newly promoted sergeant to give you messages? Or tells you a performance evaluation is on his desk, go pick it up, sign it and leave it back there. I mean, it was so odd to me.

I had experienced—I had seen some of it.

I remember Joe Younghans<sup>53</sup> in Homicide and how poorly he treated Kathy Wuorinen.<sup>54</sup> But I thought it was isolated, and I thought it was more of a

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<sup>53</sup> Joseph Daniel Younghans was appointed police officer March 13, 1978; promoted to sergeant March 1, 1990; and retired May 30, 2003.

<sup>54</sup> Kathleen Ann Wuorinen was appointed police officer September 19, 1988; promoted to sergeant October 7, 1995; commander November 18, 2006; assistant chief July 3, 2010, interim chief May 7, 2016, assistant chief July 2, 2016.

personality conflict at the time. But I tell you, as a few people started mentioning their experiences to me and then I experienced it, boy, my eyes were wide open.

I almost quit. I almost quit. I remember going to the Assistant Chief and to the Commander of Internal Affairs and saying, “I am this close to walking into [Chief] Harrington’s office and throwing my badge on his desk and being done, because nothing here is worth being treated like this. It’s just not worth it.” And you know what? Nothing was done, and nothing was done, and nothing was done. I got transferred from Gangs to SIU, but in the meantime, this little grant that we talked about, the person who was doing it to me, who was my supervisor on that grant, continued. So we think that because time’s gone by discrimination, harassment, hostile work environments, whatnot, should be a thing of the past. And I know they’re not. I know they’re not. You know, it took me a long time to make a formal complaint, because it’s just not what you do. It’s just not what you do. It’s not the okay thing to do. But during the course of that, we had kind of formed a group where the women had met with the chief [Harrington] a few times, and laid out our concerns.

I know at one point—I don’t think it was very well received, but at one of our subsequent meetings—well, I’m going to tell you, the chief’s [Harrington] response initially to our concerns was that he thought what we wrote was a really dark document. We were put off by that response. Because we said, “Apparently you are clueless to what we are experiencing then. You are looking at this document as a slam.” It was almost like he took it as failure to recognize the good that’s going on in the department, and that wasn’t what the document was about. We all know, there are great things going on in this department, day-in, day-out, 24/7. All lot of really great cops doing really great work. Ethical, hardworking, stand-up, do the right thing. The document was about the things

that aren't ethical and aren't stand-up and aren't just. It wasn't a comparison between the good and the bad. It was a document that identified actual experiences.

KC: And the Saint Paul way is a lot of ethics and the only way we got that way was enough people stood up after World War II and said, "We are going to be better." And if it slips, people have to stand up and say that.

TE: Right. And that's what we were trying to do.

KC: Did it ever get heard? [sighs]

TE: I don't know. You know, we ended up having a subsequent meeting and I remember us talking about steps that could be taken in the administration—you know, asking questions. I don't know if the answer to everything is always academic, because the reality is, is we're a paramilitary organization and whether you like someone or not, I waited then and I continued to wait. And I had expressed this to the Chief and the Assistant Chief. Because I had heard that some of the steps they were going to take were creating mentoring groups, the Chief making all the commanders go to this leadership school. I remember saying to him in a meeting, "What have you said to anyone? Have you said anything? This doesn't have to be so difficult. You do video messages." I think if the Chief gets in front of the camera and says, "I will not tolerate this," I think that message is much more powerful than a leadership school. I'm still waiting for someone from our administration to do that. I don't know why it's so difficult, because I've heard it said in years past.

It's kind of like one of those things reminders. I remember like once a year, when Nancy DiPerna was the Assistant Chief, once a year you got that

email reminding you that this is how I expect you to dress, these are the parameters. And you know you needed that. Sometimes you need those reminders, because people start going down the slippery slope or getting a little bit sloppy. In an organization like that, sometimes you need someone to say “Knock, knock. I’m still here and I’m watching you. Just as a reminder in case you forgot, this is what I expect of you.” I think we need that reminder. Men, women, Black, White, Asian, Hispanic, Somali. We need the reminder. All of us do. Because that’s a reminder about how you should treat other people and a reinforcement about how you should expect to be treated by each other. So I hope that happens soon.

That group had been formed before I had my experience, because what we kept being told was “Someone needs to file a complaint, someone needs to do it formally. We can’t do anything.” And I didn’t believe that. “You can do something. You are the leaders of this department. You set the standard.” But they kept saying that someone needs to make a formal complaint. And when I finally did, I stepped out of that group then. One, because I was told not to talk about it—the whole process is messed up [chuckles]. You can’t talk about it to anybody and since then, I don’t think it’s continued. You know, and I have experienced incredible support from men.

I’m okay with Joe Younghans, who is such a chauvinist, but he’s out there. It’s not behind your back. It’s out there. He is who he is. And I get that. We all are who we are. We all come to the table with our own set of beliefs, but you have to check those sometimes in a professional environment. You don’t get to name call. It doesn’t do anyone any good. It sets a tone.

KC: But, passive aggressive gamey-ness.

TE: And no, but that's what it was. I would get in front of somebody—"Trish Englund, best investigator I have." And Trish Englund would walk away and then be told that she was referred to as the redheaded bitch. What's that? What is that? And my deal is that I think all of us can fight the fight that's put in front of us, but it's hard to fight the fight when they're doing battle and not letting you be present for it. That's what needs to be changed. And I think somewhere down the line, maybe some people got dinged for treating people wrong. So maybe the idea was, "Well, as long as we do it behind their backs, or they're only getting it third hand, or it's not outwardly aggressive, then somehow it's okay." I don't know. I don't know. But it's not fixed, I'll tell you that. It's not fixed.

KC: The RNC—Republican National Convention<sup>55</sup> was in September, 2008. What was your involvement with the RNC?

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<sup>55</sup> Republican National Convention—RNC took place at the Xcel Energy Center in Saint Paul, Minnesota, from September 1 through September 4, 2008. The first day of the Republican Party's convention fell on Labor Day, the last day of the popular Minnesota State Fair. Approximately 10,000 largely peaceful protesters marched against the war in Iraq, and 2,000 people marched to end homelessness and poverty, as well as other peaceful, permitted marches. On the first day of the convention, anarchist groups engaged in property damage and violence in downtown, requiring unusually strong police response. Hundreds of arrests resulted in mostly dropped charges. All 600 SPPD officers spent much of the previous year preparing for the convention and hosting 850 officers from around Minnesota and the US.

TE: I was working in Homicide at the time and it was early on. Earlier, beginning of the year in 2008, the department had put out a request for volunteers to work the RNC. I had herniated a disc a year-and-a-half prior and I'm not like in the worst of shape, but I did not volunteer to work the RNC. My thought was, "I'll do the investigations."



Trish on Mobil Field Force

It's what I'm good at." So I never put in [to work on the frontline for the RNC]. It came to be April, and I got an inter-office memo saying, "You have been chosen to be part of Mobil Field Force. The Chief of Police has chosen you for all these reasons." Kind of a pat on the back kind of thing. I remember calling Steve Frazer, who was a commander at the time then and saying, "I think there's a mistake. I got this letter. I didn't put in." "Yeah, well you were chosen." I said, "Okay, got that. I'm a team player. I'll join in. If you want me to be on your team, I'll come play with you."

We trained all summer and it was excellent training. It was so much fun. So much teamwork, so much camaraderie. I was a part of a smaller group, a neighborhood response team, where the level of supervisors to officers was



much greater, because we were designed to be a stand-alone team. There were only twenty-two of us. We were cross trained in everything, so we learned how to do all—we were a cut-team to defeat devices that protestors might use to tie themselves together, block entrances. We were arrest team. We had our own cart team, with special munitions and smoke and gas. The first day of the RNC, we were initially stuck inside the venue—[The Saint Paul RiverCenter Convention Center]. We were a little disappointed in that, because you go through all that training and you're gung-ho and we were monitoring the radio all day and could hear windows being smashed and squad cars being damaged and—

KC: The first day was horrendous.

TE: It was horrendous, yeah, it was crazy. And we were inside the venue, inside the gate initially, because they believed during the protest that there was a plan to try and defeat the gating. And it was terribly hot that day as well, and we're in all that gear. Finally around, I want to say about four in the afternoon, we were released from the venue. It was kind of like, freedom! We can go out and play. I was frustrated hearing people, because it sounded like they were basically just chasing them all around the city all day. No one was being snapped up. No one was being arrested. We got a call on a group of protesters pushing a flaming dumpster near Seventh and Chestnut, as I recall. We got there and they were gone, but we asked questions and asking questions where they went led us down to Shepard Road. And as we were driving past them, going Eastbound on Shepard Road, we could see they were holding large signs that looked like they were reinforced with metal or steel.

We were then told that we were not to allow anyone back into downtown, so twenty-two of us spread out to block both Shepard at Jackson and Shepard at

Sibley, so that no one could go back Northbound. So that left about eleven people to block both of those intersections, with quite a bit of distance in between. This group of about three hundred, plus people came to the intersection and we said, “Can’t come this way. You can go that way, you can go that way. To your right, to your left, but you can’t come across.” And repeated that several times. The light was red for pedestrian traffic. At one point you could tell there were kind of some regular folks—grandma and grandpa with a little dog—who had been at the intersection prior to the group arriving. The group held up the sign and ducked down behind it and we heard some people yell, “Watch out.” And then they started coming across toward us and hurling things at us—bags of feces, chunks of asphalt. It was an *oh shit* moment, because I think every one of us knew—I mean we were so outnumbered. They could take us over easily. But we fought back, using the munitions that we were given, the tools that we were given. And knowing how to use them—throwing even inert smoke.

If you listen to the radio or some of the news accounts, they would call them concussion grenades and all these explosions were going on. And that’s really what it sounded like, but much of the stuff we were using was inert and really had no effect on anyone whatsoever. It sent them running. Ultimately, I think, we pushed them about a mile or so down the road. Backup had come, the SWAT team had come, and the Minneapolis horse patrol came behind them. I think we arrested several hundred that day. It was an experience unlike anything else I think I’ll ever have an opportunity to experience, because we don’t deal with these types of issues. I mean Saint Paul’s a pretty nice place to live, and I think the community in general doesn’t tolerate too much bad behavior. It’s not that we don’t tolerate people being able to speak their minds, or to protest, or to disagree. But this city as a society doesn’t tolerate violence and doesn’t tolerate

attacks on innocent people, including the police. It was an unbelievable experience that I'll never forget, and I would do it again in a heartbeat, should the DNC—Democratic National Convention come here.

Subsequently we were subjects of a lawsuit as a part of that, that just was thrown out [of the court] in September of this year? And I have to say to that, there was a part of me going through that that thought—because the city had taken out that insurance policy and so I kind of felt like—I felt confident that we didn't do anything wrong. I saw what my people

did. I knew the actions they were taking. I experienced the attack upon us. One of my gals who was next to me ended up having poop on her glove from a bag that had been thrown overhead. I felt like during the lawsuit then, you have the insurance company rep, and the lawyers that supposedly represented us in the city, and then the city rep. I remember taking a step back and saying it's first the insurance company and then it's the city and then it's the officers.



Police in downtown Saint Paul  
September 2, 2008

KC: Isn't that back-assward?

TE: To me it was. And I called them on it. I said, "You have a bean-counter here from the insurance company and he's getting to weigh in on what happens with this case. No. I'm telling you, we didn't do anything wrong! Let's go to trial if we

have to go to trial. I would be more than happy to testify.” But it was again one of those experiences that you don’t get an opportunity—thankfully—to be a part of very often in your career. I tell you, if it were to come again, I would love to take part, but I would sure be vocal at the beginning about whose back is being covered should something happen, because that really is how it is—insurance company and then the City of Saint Paul and then the officers. And I think that’s backwards.

KC: And that first day was quite horrendous. I took the week off and volunteered with the Chaplains serving meals at the old headquarter.

TE: Well thank you, because that was wonderful of you guys to do for us!

KC: To get from my home to the other side of downtown, it felt like a war zone that day.

TE: And I don’t know if you had any interaction with the anarchists, but I’m telling you, I’m don’t know what they do, but the smell is horrific. I thought it was maybe just this certain group of protesters, and they smelled like that because a lot of them maybe had come in from out of town and were staying, you know, just flopping here and there and maybe didn’t have a chance to bathe, shower, or change their clothes, whatever. But I kid you not, sitting in the courtroom, several came in, because they were plaintiffs in this lawsuit—exact same smell, two years later. So I don’ know what it is, but I’m kind of determined to find out. I mean maybe it’s a scent. I don’t know, because it sure doesn’t smell like anything I’d buy to put on myself willingly, but—horrific odors.

I still don't even get the purpose of it all. I really don't. I know that in their minds they think that they're making a statement, but damaging people's property and attacking the police because they see us as a form of government, I still don't get. Because I guarantee you, if one of them two weeks after the RNC or a protest finds themselves having had a house that was broken into or being the victim of a robbery or having a little sister who was raped, we sure would be there for them, just like anybody else.



Minnesota Peace Team and Mobil  
Field Force – September 4, 2008

KC: Were you involved the last day with the mass arrests over at the bridge by Marion Street?

TE: On the bridge? Yeah, I was. But we had been positioned elsewhere, so we had come there just for the actual arresting, searching, inventorying stuff, and escorting people to bathrooms and whatnot, waiting for that entire process. You know it's a long process when you have that many people who are going to be arrested and have to be identified.

KC: There were hundreds.

TE: Yeah. And have to be searched and have to be escorted from point A to point B. So I was a part of the arrest portion, but after the fact.

KC: How many hours a day did you work those four days?

TE: I think we were there an average of ten to twelve hours a day. I know that after that first day, we were there late and went home then because we had limited number of hours to turn around and come back the next day. So I stayed up and

I wrote the report about that incident from my home, and I don't think I got done writing until probably like six in the morning. Then I went to sleep for a few hours, and I think we had to be back. I want to say maybe we were working noon to midnight.

KC: Were you a sergeant on the mobile field force?

TE: Yes. One of the supervisors. We had multiple sergeants, because it was a neighborhood response team. I bet there were five or six sergeants on our team. It was like one sergeant to every two officers, but Axel Henry<sup>56</sup> was the overall commander of our team. What a great experience, I tell you. What a memory builder.

KC: Probably a once in a lifetime experience officers have.

TE: I'll tell you though, I enjoyed it so much—I think partly because it's so different from the norm, the things that we do every day. I swore right afterwards, if they would make us a moving mobile field force, I would travel the country and go to protests all over the United States. And we thought we were going to go to Philadelphia for the—what is it—the G20 Conference [Group of Twenty Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors at the Metro Toronto Convention Centre in Toronto, Ontario]. Yeah, we thought we were going to go last year I think, but they ended up not needing us.

KC: So you're prepared to go next time there's an RNC and a DNC.

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<sup>56</sup> Axel Conwell Henry was appointed police officer September 8, 1998; promoted sergeant January 7, 2006; commander October 2, 2010, senior commander July 9, 2016.

TE: I am, but I will ask more questions about potential lawsuits on the front side, based on my experience. If you do what you're supposed to do and you're well-trained—not that strange things can't happen, but I'm confident that I will do the right thing and that the people who I'm surrounded by will do the right thing. So yeah, I'd jump in again in a heartbeat.

KC: The press didn't always treat law enforcement well during those days. They scared the public because of the way the Mobile field force was dressed.

TE: You know and that's kind of funny, because over the years—especially I've worked in Homicide so long—I pay very little attention to the media or what's in the newspaper. One because I've seen so many cases that I'm working on and I've seen inaccurate information. It does get frustrating, because I've also seen the heartbreak and angst that it causes families, of both suspects and victims, when information isn't accurate. So even when it comes to police behavior, I don't pay a whole lot of attention to what the media has to say. It's kind of one of those things where if you were there and you did it, and you know that you did it exactly how you were trained to do it, it doesn't matter what anybody else is saying. While it's nice that findings then confirm your own beliefs, there's still what you believed all along. And it doesn't prevent anyone from suing you anyway. And I'm sure everyone wasn't perfect. I'm sure, because nothing is perfect all the time. I wasn't everywhere during the RNC. I was only there with my little group and can only speak for what my group did. And I'm happy with our outcome.

KC: And the press and the community don't always understand why police have to do things the way that they do them. That does make a tension. We have less of it

in Saint Paul, but there was more tension during and after the RNC. Hopefully we're settling out now.

TE: Yeah, I hope so. And that's intentional, I think. The media likes a story and other people with other agendas want to get their points out and their points of view. And that was too bad and I'm glad it is settling back down again, because we have so enjoyed such a great relationship with the citizens of this city. That would be awful if something happened to mar that. Not that our citizens don't question us, because they certainly do and sometimes they're very vocal about it. I think that's a good thing. We need checks and balances. We need sometimes people to open their mouths, internally and externally, to raise the question, to call someone to task. We're lucky. I work for a great department.

KC: Yeah. What do you want your legacy to be?

TE: I want to be known for just being a hell of a cop! And for trying to help others be great cops. For being a person willing to share the knowledge, to pass on the skills, to do what I can to help make other cops be great cops, and for being a compassionate investigator. For treating people like they're people—good, bad, otherwise. Cops tend to categorize people as good guys and bad guys, but there are so many good guys who are not always good guys, and there are so many bad guys who can be really good guys. What it comes down to is each and every one of us has someone in our lives who cares about us, who loves us, and we matter to them. I would like to spread that so that cops remember that every day, in how they treat each other and how they treat the public.

KC: Thank you. This has been incredible.

TE: Has it been boring?



KC: No way! [Laughs]

Thank you for all you have given to our city. You're an inspiration!

## Future stories to share :



Commander Englund 2014

## Work Husbands:



Sgt Dylanger Flenniken

2015 Irish Fair of MN

photo by Patrick McNeil

Dylanger John Flenniken was appointed police officer April 5, 1999; promoted sergeant November 10, 2007.



Cmdr. Bryant Gaden

2015

Bryant Gaden was appointed police officer October 7, 1996; promoted sergeant February 8 2001; commander December 15, 2015.



2015 working off-duty at the Irish Fair of MN (IFM), holding the son of a fellow Officer (Sgt. Dave McCabe's son - Dave is the President of the MN Emerald Society).

Discuss:

**Emerald Society**

Or

**Or enjoyable Off-Duty assignments**



Office Pat Scott congratulating Tris at Detective of the Year award ceremony



St. Paul Police Officer, Pat Scott, recipient of the "Flying Pig" Award, gets a squeeze of approval from Sgt. Patricia T. Englund. (Pioneer Press: Ginger Pinson)



The evening of July 14th, 2014. Saint Paul Police apprehended, Brian Fitch, who murdered Mendota Heights Officer Scott Patrick. In picture Commander Englund, another suspect in handcuffs, officer from another agency, SPPD Sgt. Tom Radke.

# Suspect in Mendota Heights cop killing arrested after shootout in St. Paul's North End

PUBLISHED: July 30, 2014 at 11:01 pm | UPDATED: March 8, 2016 at 3:48 pm  
By Mara Gottfried

A routine traffic stop midday Wednesday ended with gunshots that felled Mendota Heights' most veteran police officer. Eight hours later, during a massive manhunt for officer Scott Patrick's killer, police said the suspect opened fire on St. Paul officers, who shot back. Brian George Fitch Sr. and a woman in the car he was driving were injured. Fitch, 39, is a career criminal who was already a wanted fugitive — he left prison in February, and a Minnesota Department of Corrections warrant was issued for him in June.

Patrick, 47, was married and had two teenage daughters. He was about two blocks into West St. Paul when he was fatally wounded at Dodd Road and Smith Avenue, a busy area where many people heard the shots about 12:20 p.m. At a nearby Holiday convenience store, two bikers, a father and son, saw the traffic stop as they were pumping gas into their motorcycles. They said Patrick went to the driver's side window, and the driver quickly fired three shots and sped away. "It happened immediately. The officer got out of his car, walked to the window, and that was it. There was not even words exchanged," said the elder biker, who asked that his name not be published because he knew of the reputation of some of Fitch's associates. "The car was speeding off before officer Patrick hit the ground." The father and son ran to the officer, who was lying on his right side, a wound on the right side of his head. Patrick seemed to breathe once or twice, before two nurses arrived and began to compress his chest. Authorities said he was pronounced dead at Regions Hospital. Patrick's handgun was still holstered and buckled. "I've talked to officer Patrick so many times. He was a clown, good to talk to, made you laugh," the father said. "To see this today. ..." He paused and shook his head.

"He was a damn good cop, by all means, and I don't even like cops," the younger biker said. "You know when you're in school and you have one of those teachers that always seems to sincerely care? He was that guy." When the two were riding in a squad car, and saw Fitch's name come up on a screen as the shooter, both looked at each other and shook their heads. The father had met Fitch in Cherokee Heights Elementary School, and later Humboldt High, on St. Paul's West Side. Back then, Fitch had a reputation of being "not the one to f— with," the father said — and now, he was known as somebody who dealt "anything and everything that would sell," from drugs to firearms. Fitch had three years of supervised release to go on a burglary conviction and had stopped seeing his parole officer, the father said. When others in their social circle heard who it was, "Nobody was real surprised that he did it," he added. After the shooting, another family member who spoke to Fitch on the phone told the father and son that Fitch said, "Watch for fireworks. It's gonna be like the Fourth" of July.

As police in SWAT gear searched the West Side for Fitch on Wednesday night — surrounding a duplex where Fitch's grandmother lives and where the suspect car from the traffic stop was found — they received a tip that he was in the North End, in the 30 block of East Sycamore Street. Responding officers saw Fitch driving in the area of Rice and Sycamore streets and he tried to evade them, pulling into a parking lot around 8 p.m., police said. A police vehicle pulled in front of Fitch, an officer started opening his door and Fitch opened fire, police said. Officers returned fire, striking Fitch and a woman in his car. Both were taken to Regions Hospital — the woman had non-life-threatening injuries and Fitch's condition wasn't immediately known. Police said they weren't looking for additional suspects at this time.

Patrick joined the Mendota Heights Police Department in 1995. "He was a very dedicated police officer and a family man who absolutely adored his children," Mendota Heights Police Chief Mike Aschenbrener said. "It's going to be a very trying time for them. He cared deeply about the city of Mendota Heights and it's going to be a very tough time for the Mendota Heights Police Department." Many people reported hearing the shots that felled Patrick.

Mike Youness was in his home, heard the shots and went outside. He walked about 120 yards to where a Mendota Heights police SUV was at the side of the road with its door open. An officer was lying on the ground with a severe head injury, Youness said. A woman who Youness believes was a nurse attempted to revive Patrick. "She said it was futile," Youness said. "He was already gone. ... This is very sad. A guy leaves for work and then look what happens." Mike Lowe was walking his dog when he heard three gunshots, looked over and saw the officer "crumple to the ground." Fitch lives in the South St. Paul/West St. Paul area, police said. He was out of prison on supervised release for a burglary conviction from Washington County. Fitch has a lengthy criminal history, including convictions for theft, escaping custody and fleeing from police officers. His most recent conviction was last spring, when he was sentenced for terroristic threats and fifth-degree assault for an incident dating back to 2012.

Patrick was the first Mendota Heights officer killed in the line of duty. Mendota Heights is a city of 11,000, and the police department's authorized strength is 17 officers. "It's a hard day for all of Mendota Heights," said Mendota Heights City Council member Ultan Duggan. "You think this will never happen to you and then out of the blue ... boom here is what happens." The last law enforcement officer to be slain in the line of duty in Minnesota was Cold Spring police officer Tom Decker, 31, who was shot to death in an ambush on Nov. 29, 2012. The suspect killed himself two months later. The last law enforcement officer to be slain in the line of duty in the Twin Cities was Maplewood police Sgt. Joseph Bergeron, 49, who was shot to death in an ambush in St. Paul on May 1, 2010. A St. Paul police officer fatally shot the killer during an ensuing manhunt. An accomplice pleaded guilty and remains in prison. Nearly 20 years ago, on Aug. 26, 1994, St. Paul police officer Ron Ryan Jr. was fatally shot on the East Side and the suspect ambushed and killed officer Timothy Jones during the manhunt on the same day. Their killer was later convicted and remains in prison.