

UPPER MERION TOWNSHIP POLICE DEPARTMENT

POLICY AND PROCEDURE

No. 1030

Supersedes: NA

Effective: April 1, 2009

Page: NA Section: NA

Page: 1 OF 5

Dated: March 24, 2009

POLICE DEPARTMENT FUNERALS

- I. **PURPOSE:** The purpose of this policy is to provide guidelines for the rendering of ceremonial honors at the funerals of active and retired members of the police department

- II. **POLICY:** It is the policy of the Upper Merion Township Police Department to render the appropriate ceremonial honors, consistent with the family's wishes, at the funerals of deceased active or retired members of the department who are in good standing at the time of their death. Each funeral shall be classified according to the circumstances surrounding the death of the member.

- IV. **CLASSIFICATIONS:**
 - A. **KILLED IN THE PERFORMANCE OF DUTY:** the death of any active officer while in the performance of duty where the death of the officer is directly related to the hostile actions of a criminal suspect. Examples include an officer shot, stabbed, beaten, or any other action where the intent of the actor was to kill or seriously injure the officer.

 - B. **DIED WHILE IN THE PERFORMANCE OF DUTY:** the death of any active officer while in the performance of duty where the death of the officer is not directly related to the hostile actions of a criminal suspect as outlined in Section A. Examples include an officer who died in a crash pursuing a suspect, an officer who died attempting a rescue, an officer who died as the result of a heart attack while attempting an apprehension, etc.

 - C. **ACCIDENTAL DEATH OR DEATH BY NATURAL CAUSES WHILE ON DUTY:** the death of any active officer which is the result of an accident while working, but not involved in the actions outlined in Section B; or which is the result of natural causes while on duty but not in the performance of duties outlined in Section B. Examples include an officer who died in a car crash while on routine patrol, an officer who has a fatal heart attack but not while engaged in a stressful duty, etc.

- D. **DEATH OF AN ACTIVE OFFICER WHILE OFF DUTY:** any active officer who dies while off duty.
 - E. **PENSIONED MEMBERS:** the death of any officer who has retired from the police department in good standing.
 - F. **PROFESSIONAL STAFF:** the death of any active non-sworn member of the police department.
- V. **PROCEDURE:** The ceremonial honors described below will be made available in the described circumstances with the understanding that the family of the deceased active or pensioned member may not want some or any of the listed honors.
- A. **KILLED IN THE PERFORMANCE OF DUTY:** The following ceremonial honors will be provided by the department, consistent with the family's wishes, at the funeral of an officer killed in the performance of duty:
 - 1. Casket honor guard consisting of department members assigned to stand casket honor guard at the viewing and prior to the funeral.
 - 2. Pall bearing detail consisting of department members assigned to carry the casket.
 - 3. Family escort consisting of officers assigned to escort the family to and from funeral events.
 - 4. Marked vehicle escort utilized during the movement of the deceased officer to memorial, religious or internment services.
 - 5. Ceremonial detail consisting of department members used to form an honor guard column when moving the deceased officer to memorial, religious or internment services.
 - 6. Last radio call consisting of an unanswered call for service to the deceased officer's assigned radio number.
 - 7. The department shall attempt to arrange for the provision of the following ceremonial honors by outside agencies:
 - a. Color guard
 - b. Firing squad
 - c. Bugle detail.
 - d. Pipes and drums
 - e. Crossed ladders
 - B. **DIED WHILE IN THE PERFORMANCE OF DUTY:** The following ceremonial honors will be provided by the department, consistent with the family's wishes, at the funeral of an officer who died in the performance of duty:

1. Casket honor guard consisting of department members assigned to stand casket honor guard at the viewing and prior to the funeral.
2. Pall bearing detail consisting of department members assigned to carry the casket.
3. Family escort consisting of officers assigned to escort the family to and from funeral events.
4. Marked vehicle escort utilized during the movement of the deceased officer to memorial, religious or internment services.
5. Ceremonial detail consisting of department members used to form an honor guard column when moving the deceased officer to memorial, religious or internment services.
6. Last radio call consisting of an unanswered call for service to the deceased officer's assigned radio number.
7. The department shall attempt to arrange for the provision of the following ceremonial honors by outside agencies:
 - a. Color guard
 - b. Bugle detail.
 - c. Pipes and drums

C. ACCIDENTAL DEATH OR DEATH BY NATURAL CAUSES WHILE ON DUTY: The following ceremonial honors will be provided by the department, consistent with the family's wishes, at the funeral of an officer who died due to accident or natural causes while on duty:

1. Casket honor guard consisting of department members assigned to stand casket honor guard at the viewing and prior to the funeral.
2. Pall bearing detail consisting of department members assigned to carry the casket.
3. Family escort consisting of officers assigned to escort the family to and from funeral events.
4. Marked vehicle escort utilized during the movement of the deceased officer to memorial, religious or internment services.
5. Ceremonial detail consisting of department members used to form an honor guard column when moving the deceased officer to memorial, religious or internment services.

- D. **DEATH OF AN ACTIVE OFFICER WHILE OFF DUTY:** The following ceremonial honors will be provided by the department, consistent with the family's wishes, at the funeral of an active officer who died while off duty:
1. Casket honor guard consisting of department members assigned to stand casket honor guard at the viewing and prior to the funeral.
 2. Pall bearing detail consisting of department members assigned to carry the casket.
 3. Family escort consisting of officers assigned to escort the family to and from funeral events.
 4. Marked vehicle escort utilized during the movement of the deceased officer to memorial, religious or internment services.
- E. **PENSIONED MEMBERS:** The following ceremonial honors will be provided by the department, consistent with the family's wishes, at the funeral of an officer who has retired from the police department in good standing:
1. Casket honor guard consisting of department members assigned to stand casket honor guard at the viewing and prior to the funeral.
 2. Pall bearing detail consisting of department members assigned to carry the casket.
 3. Marked vehicle escort utilized during the movement of the deceased officer to memorial, religious or internment services.
- F. **PROFESSIONAL STAFF:** The following ceremonial honors will be provided by the department, consistent with the family's wishes, at the funeral of an active non-sworn member of the police department:
1. Pall bearing detail consisting of department members assigned to carry the casket.
 2. Marked vehicle escort utilized during the movement of the deceased officer to memorial, religious or internment services.
- G. **SUICIDE:** Following an administrative review, the following ceremonial honors may be provided by the department, consistent with the family's wishes, at the funeral of an active officer who died by suicide:
1. Casket honor guard consisting of department members assigned to stand casket honor guard at the viewing and prior to the funeral.
 2. Pall bearing detail consisting of department members assigned to carry the casket.

3. Family escort consisting of officers assigned to escort the family to and from funeral events.

4. Marked vehicle escort utilized during the movement of the deceased officer to memorial, religious or internment services.

H. NOTIFICATIONS: A member of the police department who becomes aware of the death of any active or pensioned member of the police department shall immediately notify an on-duty or on-call Command Officer who shall be responsible for ensuring that all department personnel are notified.

APPROVED: _____

DATE: _____

APPROVED: _____

DATE: _____

TO BE REVIEWED: ANNUALLY

DISTRIBUTION: All police officers
Township Manager
File