

The Blue Line In The Line Of Duty

Martin O'Malley, Mayor

Special Edition

Baltimore, Maryland

Leonard D. Hamm, Police Commissioner

June 1, 2006



IN MEMORY OF POLICE OFFICER aNTHONY a. bYRD jANUARY 15, 1975 - mAY 19, 2006

On May 19, 2006, Baltimore City lost one of its finest officers. Thirty-one year-old Anthony Antonio Byrd, a beloved father, devoted husband and loyal public servant, made the ultimate sacrifice while protecting the citizens of his native Baltimore. Shortly before three o'clock in the morning, while returning to the Southwestern District station house, Officer Byrd was involved in a fatal car accident in the 1800 block of Stafford Avenue.

An eleven-year veteran of the Baltimore City Police Department, Officer Byrd was a certified Field Training Officer and received numerous letters of commendations during his distinguished career.

In the days following Officer Byrd's tragic death, his many cherished friends and family members recalled Tony's wonderful sense of humor, his generosity and his calm and cool demeanor. Countless mourners attended the viewings prior to the funeral, and hundreds of officers from across Maryland and several other states came to the funeral service at Zion Baptist Church in East Baltimore.

Among the speakers at the funeral was Commissioner Leonard Hamm, who said, "Officer Byrd knew his calling and he accepted it without hesitation, and our lives are better because he did." Mayor Martin O'Malley also spoke during the emotional service, as did Officer Freddie Degraffinried, Officer Byrd's best friend on the force. Degraffinried, who was a cadet, went to the police academy and served in the Southwestern District with Officer Byrd, said, "If tears could bring my friend back..you would have about a million Tonys."

Officer Byrd leaves behind his wife Shantell and his two daughters, Toni and Kierra, all of whom will forever be a part of the Baltimore Police family. We will never forget.

