

Cheltenham Township Officer Edgar L. Peterson E.O.W. 3/3/1946

Officer Edgar L. Peterson made the ultimate sacrifice on Sunday, March 3rd, 1946 while responding to a domestic disturbance call. He was killed in an automobile accident. While answering the call, his patrol car struck a telephone pole when he suffered a heart attack at the wheel. Officer Peterson, fifty-six years old at the time, suffered severe injuries and died shortly after being transported to a local hospital. He had served with the Cheltenham Township Police Department for nineteen years before his death and was survived by his wife and three daughters.

Officer Peterson's granddaughter, Alice Creswick, along with her husband, her brothers George and Barry Cotton, and four other family members attended the ceremony. Officer Peterson's dedication represents the eightieth Fallen Hero Plaque since James Binns expanded the program to Montgomery County in 2007. Officer Peterson represents the sixth Hero Plaque to be dedicated throughout Montgomery County.

Officer Peterson was described by friends and family as an outstanding individual with strong ties to his community. District Attorney Ferman, addressing the one hundred people in attendance outside the Cheltenham Police Department said "Although we come here today, sixty three years later, time does not diminish respect. It is fitting to honor Officer Peterson and the police officers who have given the ultimate sacrifice in the line of duty. This plaque memorializes the dedication and sacrifice of our police officers as well as the respect that carries on long after their sacrifices."

Granddaughter Alice explained her remorse to the crowd, "Everything was lost, my mother [Peterson's daughter] was fourteen when he died, he father left behind his wife and three daughters when his life was taken from him." Upon his death, his wife and daughters lost their home and were forced to move in with relatives in New Jersey. Alice also explained how, as a result of the move, the family lost many keepsakes including photographs of her grandfather, only one picture survived.