

News First 5/30 - Saturday, June 21st, 2008

Pueblo Police Officer dies on duty



A Pueblo Police Officer collapses and dies while on duty. Pueblo Police Chief Jim Billings says it appears he died of a heart attack.

Heine had been with the Pueblo Police Department for seven years. His mother, Patricia is a detective with the department.

Officer Nicholas Heine and his mother shared more than just a special relationship.

"He came to me and he said mom can I wear your badge," said Pat Heine.

Seven years ago, when Nick Heine was sworn into the Pueblo Police Department, his mother, a veteran officer, pinned an old badge onto her son.

"He was everything you hoped your kids would grow up to be," she said. "I can't take credit for that. That's what he made of himself. "

At 30-years-old, her son was a healthy guy, a real go-getter, and a skilled cop great at catching crooks. He was also a great husband and father to his two daughters, Nichole and Rebecca.

"They're having a hard time with this," she said. "They keep expecting daddy to come home and he's not going to. "

At around 2 a.m. on Sat., Heine and several other officers were running down the street near Victoria Ave. and C St., trying to break up several bar fights when he collapsed.

"Officers rendered medical assistance," said Pueblo Police Chief James Billings. "They did CPR "

Heine was taken to Parkview Medical Center, but it was too late. He died shortly after apparently from a heart attack.

"This has been devastating to the whole department but more his own crew than anyone else because they were so tight," said Billings.

On Saturday, flags flew at half staff and officers covered their badges.

"Going on without him is going to be very difficult for all of us, especially his wife Melissa," said Pat Heine.

His mom finds comfort knowing he died doing what he loved.

"Son, I love you. "

But at such a young age, no one was ready to say good-bye.

The family says they should know exactly what happened after the autopsy results come back early next week. Funeral arrangements will be made afterward.

Heine's name will be added to a memorial at the police department of officers who died in the line of duty. The last name was added in 1973.