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DORCHESTER, JAMAICA PLAIN

## Plaque at Jamaica Plain intersection honors Boston Police detective murdered 25 years ago

Posted by Matt Rocheleau May 13, 2013 01:29 PM

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(Boston Police)

By Matt Rocheleau, Town Correspondent

A plaque at a Jamaica Plain intersection was installed to honor Boston Police

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Detective Sherman C. Griffiths, who was fatally shot during a Dorchester drug raid 25 years ago.

The 36-year-old veteran police officer, husband and father of two daughters died in a hospital on the morning of Feb. 18, 1988, after being shot the night before.

The alleged gunman was eventually acquitted of all criminal charges in the case amid allegations of lying and misconduct by some of Griffiths' partners in the Drug Control Unit as well as by prosecutors. Two drug detectives were convicted of perjury.

On Saturday morning, members of Griffiths' family joined Mayor Thomas M. Menino, city police Commissioner Edward F. Davis, police officers, and others for a ceremony at Centre and Moraine streets to dedicate the plaque.

"Officers stood side-by-side at attention, family members held back tears, Honor Guards marched as the boom of the Gaelic Column rang through air," the Boston Police Department said in a statement. "Passersby asked 'what's going on?' Officers answered a dedication to a fallen hero."

Griffiths' daughters spoke at the ceremony about "the memories they hold on to through letters, pictures and stories, he left intuitively behind," the police statement said.

"He was a husband that, even twenty five years later, his wife beamed with pride when looking at the dedication plaque that will hang in the neighborhood her husband protected. He was the friend that so many people came out to remember, it took almost the whole ceremony for his family to say hello to everyone," the statement continued.

"He was the co-worker that put smiles on officer's faces, when reminiscing about the good old days with Sherman. He was the brother that inspired five of his brothers, to follow in his footsteps and become Boston Police officers. He was the hero, that gave his life for others and this is how he will be remembered."

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