

Officer laid to rest

Middletown police Officer Chris Jones was buried in the dress blues he wore to mourn his fallen brothers in blue.

By **MATT COUGHLIN**
STAFF WRITER

Middletown police Officer Chris Jones had a dress uniform specifically to wear to police funerals.

He wore it recently to several such funerals for Philadelphia police officers. He wore it in 2005 to the burial of Newtown Officer Brian Gregg.

On Thursday, he wore it for the last time. He was buried in those cherished dress blues at Resurrection Cemetery in Bensalem.

And just like he and fellow Middletown officers honored other cops killed in the line of duty, hundreds of brothers in blue showed up to pay their last respects to Jones.

Jones, a 10-year Middletown police veteran who also served in the U.S. Navy, was killed last week during a traffic stop on the Route 1 Superhighway. He is survived by his wife, Suzanne, and their three children Christopher, 16, Julianne, 13, and Brendan, 12.

Besides family, friends and his "police brotherhood," people who never met Jones attended his services. Thousands turned out for the first viewing at Our Lady of Grace Church in Penndel Wednesday night and at his funeral Mass Thursday morning at the Cathedral Basilica of Saints Peter and Paul in Philadelphia.

After the Mass, a six-mile long procession of police cruisers, ambulances, fire engines and buses drove to the cemetery on Hulmeville Road. Four Philadelphia police officers killed in the line of duty have been buried there since 2006.

Cops from Bucks, Lehigh, Berks, Montgomery, Delaware, Philadelphia and even New Jersey trudged through an inch of snow past the plots of retired cops, deceased war heroes and thousands of others as a cold wind cut through the trees and memorial stones. Despite the freezing wind and temperatures in the teens, they gathered at attention around Jones' plot in the frozen grass, which had been raked free of snow by caretakers an hour earlier.

A line of honor guards from several different police departments stood at the back of a tent erected over the coffin bearing flags and ceremonial rifles. Police and Fire Pipes and Drums and a police bugler struggled to play in the cold during the frigid ceremony, which was highlighted by a low flyover of five police helicopters.

Moments earlier, Cassandra Denton, the daughter of Middletown Officer David Denton, who's also a county emergency dispatcher, radioed Jones' "End of Watch."

"Bucks County to 44 X-10 ... Bucks County to 44 X-10 ... Bucks County to 44 X-10," she said.

Chief Frank X. McKenna responded, "44 PD, Bucks, clear the air."

"Bucks County to all cars and stations, clear the air for 44 PD. It is with deep regret that the officers and members of the Middletown Township Police Department announce the death of Officer Chris Jones, badge 4466, who was killed in the line of duty on Jan. 29, 2009 ... Bucks County to all cars and stations, unit 4429 and badge 4466 are out of service on a final call to duty.

"They shall not respond again."

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The casket of Middletown police Officer Chris Jones is carried into a hearse after a funeral Mass on Thursday at the Cathedral Basilica of Saints Peter and Paul in Philadelphia. KIM WEIMER / **STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER**