

## Hundreds remember Jones during service

31 Jan 2010 — *Bucks County Courier Times*

Middletown

Mike Lubold was working the night shift last week when he stopped his police cruiser on the Route 1 Superhighway.

It was 3 a.m. No one was on the road.

Through his windshield, he looked at the sign marking the spot where Middletown Detective Chris Jones had been fatally injured in a car crash. The acting sergeant stayed there for three or four minutes.

"I'm sure I'm not the only one who does that," he said.

On Friday morning, Lubold was back on Route 1 - one among hundreds who marked the one-year anniversary of Jones' death.

Law enforcement officials from all over the area came to remember Jones. So did judges, county prosecutors and lawmakers. Area residents stood along Trenton Road and waved as the motorcade flowed past.

The remembrance began under an American flag - lowered to half staff - outside police headquarters.

In a short speech, acting public safety director Pat McGinty said Friday "was the first anniversary of the worst day of department history."

Bucks County's park rangers dedicated a teak bench to Jones. Glenn Roach and Chris Russel of the township's public works department had coated the bench with an oil finish five times - a process that took days. "To make it last," Roach said.

The bench was displayed near the flag pole for the memorial but will be moved inside the township building for safe keeping.

Jones, of course, wasn't just a cop.

Samantha and Bob Taylor, a father and daughter, knew him as a father. Jones, 37, often picked up one of his kids who worked with Samantha at a local supermarket. "I just really care about the family," Samantha said.

A long line of police cars, ambulances and fire trucks took over a stretch of the superhighway - as they had done on that fateful day a year ago. Only this time, they didn't stop.

Heads turned to acknowledge the spot, just west of I-95, where Jones had written his last traffic ticket after a routine car stop that became anything but routine.

A car struck his police cruiser, which was pushed on top of him.

Lubold, the acting sergeant, was the third officer to respond. "This dredges up a lot of bad memories," he said as his police cruiser passed the spot where Jones was hit.

Lubold had helped train Jones more than 10 years ago, when he joined the force.

"He didn't change much from the time we hired him until his death," Lubold said. "He went out of his way on every call. He always had a smile on his face. I know people always say that. But he really did."

The motorcade ended at Bensalem's Resurrection Cemetery, where Jones is buried. Middletown Sgt. Mark Wert laid a wreath on the grave. Throngs of police officers saluted.

A few feet away, members of Jones' immediate family sat in an SUV, shielded from the cold.

At the end of the ceremony, they stepped outside, embraced by the warmth of the people who surrounded them.

Ben Finley can be reached at 215-949-4203 or [bfiney@phillyBurbs.com](mailto:bfiney@phillyBurbs.com).

*"Hundreds remember Jones during service" Bucks County Courier Times 31 Jan 2010: A1*