

## Service to honor late Officer Jones

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The Middletown cop was killed one year ago Friday during a traffic stop on Route 1.

A year ago Friday, a Middletown police officer was killed along the roadside, crushed between the pavement and his own police cruiser.

To mark the day of Officer Chris Jones' death, a memorial service that stretches from Middletown to Bensalem will be held.

On Jan. 29, 2009, Jones had just completed a traffic stop on Route 1 near I-95 when a car brushed another vehicle and then slammed into his cruiser. The cruiser was pushed atop Jones. The 37-year-old was rushed to St. Mary Medical Center, where after struggling to save his life for an hour and a half, doctors asked Jones' wife to let them harvest his organs to save others. Among those who received his organs was one of Jones' closest friends, a Navy buddy who was dying of a kidney disease.

The tragedy unfolded amid the murders of eight city cops, the last of whom was killed a week after Jones was buried. Philadelphia police turned out in droves to support the Middletown officers during their time of loss. That's because Middletown and other Bucks County officers had shown up by the dozens to support the city's cops during their losses.

Surrounding departments answered calls in Middletown in the hours after Jones' death and during his viewing and burial to allow the department to mourn.

The memorial service for Jones begins at the Middletown police station at 3 Municipal Way Friday. Those wishing to take part in Friday's service are asked to gather around the township municipal building flagpole about 10:15 a.m. A handful of statements, a memorial plaque presentation and a prayer will begin at 10:25 a.m. At exactly 10:37 a.m., the time of the crash, a moment of silence will be announced over Bucks County Emergency Radio.

A police motorcade will then leave the station about 10:45 a.m., head south on North Flowers Mill Road and get on Route 1 Superhighway north to drive past the crash site. The procession will head to Resurrection Cemetery on Hulmeville Road in Bensalem to lay a wreath at Jones' gravesite.

The ceremony is open to all police officers in the county, township employees, friends and family, police said.

Jones' death saddened many throughout the region. About 2,000 residents turned out for Jones' viewing in Pennel, thousands more for his funeral service at the Basilica of Sts. Peter and Paul in Philadelphia and then a 6-mile procession of police, fire and emergency workers escorted Jones to his final resting place. He was posthumously promoted to detective, having passed all the requirements for the promotion. His badge and patrol car numbers have been retired.

He is survived by his wife Suzanne, and three children, Christopher, Julianne and Brendan.

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