

Medal of Honor

Awarded Posthumously



**DETECTIVE FIRST GRADE
RUSSEL TIMOSHENKO
71 Precinct**



**DETECTIVE
HERMAN YAN
Intel Operations Analysis Section**

On July 9, 2007, then-Police Officers Russel Timoshenko and Herman Yan were assigned to the 71 Precinct. A few hours after midnight, while on routine patrol in a marked police car, the officers observed a suspicious vehicle. They conducted a license plate check via the computer terminal in their patrol car, which indicated that the license plate did not belong to the SUV they had under observation. The officers initiated a car stop and with their patrol car positioned tactically, Officer Yan emerged from the driver side while Officer Timoshenko exited from the passenger side. Just as they got out of the car, numerous shots were fired from the stopped vehicle. Police Officer Timoshenko was struck twice in the face and fell to the ground. Police Officer Yan was struck once in the forearm and once in the chest; his life saved by his ballistic resistant vest. Though driven to his knees by the impact of being shot at close range, Officer Yan swiftly recovered and valiantly returned fire. Forced to retreat by Officer's Yan's remarkable resiliency under fire, the perpetrators fled the scene in their vehicle. Police Officer Yan quickly summoned assistance and both he and Officer Timoshenko were transported to the hospital. En route, Officer Yan provided descriptions that led to the speedy recovery of the perpetrators' vehicle and several firearms. Police Officer Yan was treated and released from the hospital a few days later. Police Officer Timoshenko succumbed to his injuries after five days in intensive care. Following this incident, an extensive investigation and wide-ranging manhunt ensued, leading to the capture of all three perpetrators with the assistance of the United States Marshall Service and the Pennsylvania State Police. The perpetrators' past histories determined each of them to be career criminals, and we will never know how many lives were saved from these violent men as a result of the bravery of Police Officers Timoshenko and Yan. In a moving ceremony held on July 27, 2007, Russel Timoshenko was posthumously promoted to Detective First Grade, and his partner, Herman Yan, was promoted to Detective.

Detective First Grade Timoshenko, 23, began his career with the NYPD in January 2006. He is survived by his parents: Tatyana and Leonid.