



Bill Mc Grath
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HAROLD JACOB

Born in the Hell's Kitchen area of New York City in 1908, Harry Jacob attended St. Ambrose High School before being appointed to the Dept. on Nov. 1, 1933.

A year earlier, he had married and he and his wife, Dorothy, would be blessed with six children over their 35 year marriage.

After his Police Academy training, Harry was assigned to Manhattan's 17th Pct. where he would remain for the next thirteen years making numerous arrests. In 1945, while effecting the arrest of three hotel burglars who were responsible for dozens of thefts in midtown, he was assaulted by the trio and required hospitalization. Soon afterwards, he was promoted to Detective and assigned to the Safe and Loft Squad. In 1952, while on patrol in the garment area, a post he covered regularly for 21 years, he and his partner witnessed the stickup of two payroll messengers. In an exchange of gunfire, the bandit was wounded and was subsequently identified in several more area holdups.

In 1954, Jacob was promoted to Detective 1st grade.

Over the following years, Harry was afforded many opportunities to work inside, but he steadfastly refused to leave "The Street."

On the afternoon of Jan. 18, 1967, Harry and his three partners heard the sound of gunfire coming from a building on W. 35th street. Unknown to them, a merchant had just been shot by a gunman inside and the bandit fled to the sidewalk with the stolen payroll. Jacob, gun in hand, was the first to call on the man to surrender. Instead, the robber fired four shots at the officers, all wild. Returning fire, Jacob and his partners fatally wounded their quarry. Not hesitating, Harry jumped over the man's prostrate body and ran inside the building to check for an accomplice. But as he knelt alongside the body of the wounded merchant, Det. Jacob himself was stricken with a fatal heart attack and collapsed to the ground.

In his 34 years of Police Service, Harry Jacob was cited over 40 times for heroic acts. But in June of 1968, the Dept. paid him it's highest honor when he was posthumously awarded the prestigious Medal of Honor.