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Robert McDevitt, son of Detective Henry McDevitt, who died after an accident on duty, speaking during the ceremonies at the 48th Precinct station in the Bronx. He made the sculpture, background, which was dedicated to his father.

Son's Art Is a Memorial to a Detective

By LEONARD BUDER

A welded-steel abstract sculpture standing nine feet high and weighing 200 pounds is not the usual memorial to a police officer. But then, to hear his colleagues talk about him, Detective Henry McDevitt — who died in June 1977 of an injury in the line of duty — was no ordinary policeman.

"He was the kind of guy who always gave an extra bit of effort," said Sgt. Angelo Turco, who was Detective McDevitt's supervisor on the 48th Precinct's anti-crime squad. "Even the day he got hurt responding to a report of a burglary, he borrowed a ladder from a telephone company truck so he could check things out better."

Coming down the ladder, the 44-year-old detective slipped and fell 25 feet to the ground. injuring a leg. He died six weeks later of a blood clot caused by the injury.

A Movement in Space

The memorial sculpture was dedicated at a ceremony yesterday in the muster room of the 48th Precinct station at 450 Cross Bronx Expressway, near Park Avenue, in the Bronx. The sculpture was the creation of one of Detective McDevitt's five sons, Robert, a 20-year-old art-education student at Southhampton College on Long Island. The work was donated to the precinct by the family.

High-ranking police officials and friends took part in the ceremony.

Deputy Chief Arthur McNevin said: "We all have hopes that we will have immortality. This, in a way, gives him immortality."

After the dedication, people crowded around to examine the sculpture, entitled "Movement in Space No. Two," and to ask the artist what it symbolized.

Mr. McDevitt said it represented his movement in space to a threshold from which he could achieve the dreams that his father had for him. Some one asked him if his father had understood his abstract work.

"He was one of the few people who did," the artist replied.

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