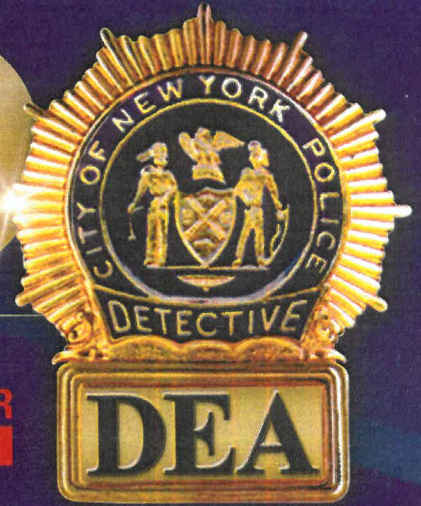


# THE GOLD SHIELD

WINTER  
2021



The Union Representing the Greatest Detectives *in the World*

## DEU *Remembers*



Det. Raymond Abear



Det. Robert Cardona



Det. Cedric Dixon



Det. Christopher B. McDonnell



Det. Jack Polimeni



Det. Jeffrey A. Scalf

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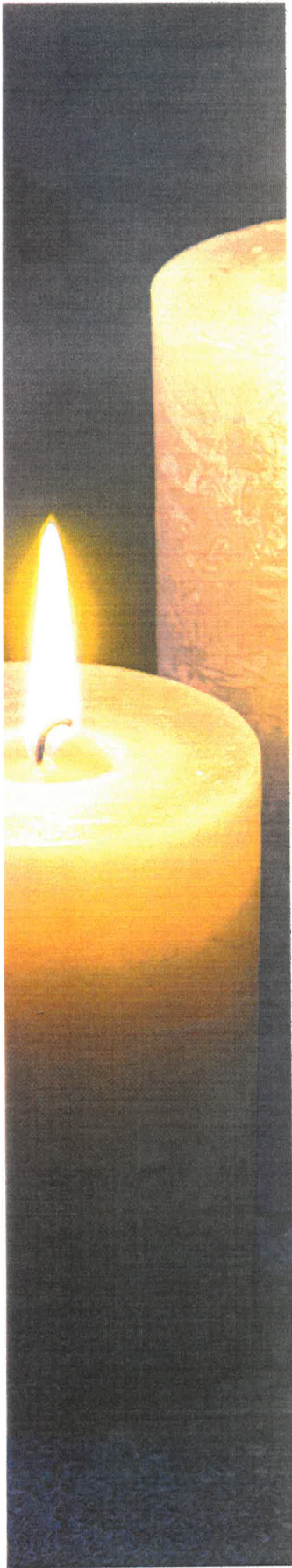
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# The DEA Remembers





Through the tremendous efforts of our union, and our work with City and State legislators, on May 29, 2020, the COVID-19 Line-of-Duty Death Benefit bills (S. 8427 and A.10528) passed both the New York State Senate and the New York State Assembly; and on May 30, the Governor signed the bills into law. This provides line-of-duty death benefits to our active members who died because of the coronavirus. This devastating pandemic, which has wreaked havoc on the entire world, struck in full force in February 2020, and, by mid-March, both New York City and State were in lockdown with businesses shuttered and shelter-in-place orders mandated throughout the State.

But the work of our members never slows down; and, in fact, it increased exponentially as the City also erupted into a frenzy of social protests, including rioting and looting. Amidst this chaos and disorder, the DEA lost six active Detectives to COVID-19, while many others became seriously ill. The May passage of the Death Benefit law ensured that our LOD families will remain financially stable and be provided the health benefits they richly deserve as they deal with the devastating loss of their loved ones in this frightening, unpredictable, and unprecedented era.

On July 20, 2020, NAPO notified us that Congress, which originally contemplated two different versions of a coronavirus bill, worked together to pass S. 3607, the Safeguarding America's First Responders Act, which establishes a presumption under the Public Safety Officers' Benefits (PSOB) Program that an Officer's death or disability due to contracting COVID-19 is deemed in the line of duty. On August 14, 2020, the President signed the bill into law.

This is a big victory for NAPO. More than 125 active Law Enforcement Officers in the United States have died from COVID-19, and now their families will get death benefits. To qualify for the presumption, an Officer must have engaged in a line-of-duty action or activity between January 1, 2020, and December 31, 2021, and received a diagnosis of COVID-19 (or evidence indicates that the Officer had COVID-19) during the 45-day period beginning on the last day of duty for the Officer. For death benefits, evidence must indicate that the Officer had COVID-19 or complications from COVID-19 at the time of death.



# Det. Cedric Dixon



Det. Cedric Dixon of the 32 Squad was the first active DEA member to pass away from the coronavirus. He was born August 10, 1971, and according to his fellow Bronx born and raised wife Kyra Stevens, Dixon always wanted to be a Police Officer. He graduated Evander Childs High School and went on to the John Jay College of Criminal Justice of the City University of New York. Kyra also graduated from John Jay, but she and Cedric didn't know each other at the school. The soft-spoken Kyra says that when she first met Dixon at the sneaker store where he was working while waiting to be called up for the Police Academy, she was swept off her feet by his imposing 6'4" height, his generous smile, and his humble demeanor. She went in to shop for shoes, but came out of the store with Dixon's phone number, and, she admits, "I was the one who asked him for it!" It was May 4, 1996, she recalls, and they remained together for the next 24 years until he passed away this past March 27, 2020, at the age of 48.

He was, Kyra says, "... such a big teddy bear ... the sweetest guy ever .....", a description echoed by everyone who met the gentle giant.

Dixon was appointed to the New York Police Department on December 8, 1997, and assigned for the first 20 years of his career as a white shield in the 40th Precinct in The Bronx.

"In the 4-0," says Kyra, "they would call Cedric their 'Boy Scout,' because he always wanted to do the right thing." Described as "smart, very intuitive, and hard-working," his colleagues relate that Dixon never complained about anything, but took things in stride and always tried to be the peacemaker. His big smile, and mild tone and manner endeared him to all.

Kyra, who has worked for the same financial company for the past 26 years, became pregnant with their daughter in 2001, and

Carys was born six days before 9/11. "I had just given birth when less than a week later Cedric had to report to the World Trade Center disaster," along with everyone else in the Department. Carys is now 19 years old.

"Cedric was also a great artist, he could draw beautifully," Kyra adds, noting that Dixon recently sketched Carys in her prom dress and planned to give the sketch to his daughter as a present.

"Everything he did," says Dixon's former 32 Squad partner Det. Jesus ("Manny") Capo, "he did for his daughters."

Dixon also played the piano and keyboard, and taught all of his nieces and nephews how to play as well. His love of performing music dated back to his youth when he played the trumpet in high school. He was, his wife says, a family-oriented man and 'Uncle Cedric' was the 'go-to' guy for all the kids in the family. "He also loved fixing things, any type of electronics," says Kyra, noting her house was always filled with machines he would bring home to repair for people, including laptops and vacuum cleaners. "He was extremely handy. If something broke, he would say, 'I can fix that' and he would."





After two decades on the job, Dixon decided he wanted to get on the Detective track, and transferred to the 32 Squad where he could learn the ins and outs of becoming a gold shield. He was partnered with Capo and was promoted to third grade Detective on October 3, 2019. The two remained partners until Capo transferred in December 2019 to the Criminal Enterprise Joint FBI Task Force.

"Dixon was literally a stand-up guy," Capo says. "He was a 20-year white shield, and at the 4-0 he spent a lot of time doing administrative work. But he was willing to make the change

to a very different type of police work. He wanted to learn, never complained, and was always willing to help out."

DEA 32 Delegate Det. Carlos Matos also noted that within a few weeks of arriving at the Squad, Dixon became beloved by the whole office. "He was awesome, excellent, open to learning and had a lot of energy. He was also technically very savvy: always coming up with some new device to help on the cases. He was a very friendly and humble guy."

Det. Tiffany Jeffries had been in the 32 Precinct for 14 years, and in the Squad for seven, when Capo was transferred out and she was partnered with Dixon. She, too, describes him as, "a very, very thoughtful person and a great Detective," who was excited about the case they were working on when Dixon suddenly became ill.

"We were working on a shooting and he had just figured out who the perpetrator was, and he was excited about closing in and working out how we would effect the arrest," she says. Sadly, Dixon passed away before the arrest was made.

Jeffries also talks about Dixon's love for technology and police work, but she looks at her compatibility with her partner in more esoteric terms. "I'm a Capricorn, and my wife is a Leo, and Cedric was also a Leo, so I think that's one of the reasons we were so close." Not exactly a scientific analysis, but there might be something to a celestial match-making art that dates back thousands of years. "And Cedric never got angry, not about anything," she adds. "I only heard him step out of character once, and that was when a hospital made it difficult for us to interview a perpetrator. But other than that, he was the most likeable guy you would ever meet. He just never got upset, even when the perps were nasty. He just let it slide. He would try to reason with them." As for his friends and colleagues, she adds, "He would do anything for anyone."

Jeffries also speaks about Dixon's love for his daughters: his older step-daughter Cree and his younger Carys. "Carys had just started college and just recorded something for iTunes, and he was so proud of her. He downloaded the music and we'd listen to it in the Squad car."

It came as quite a shock to his friends and colleagues when Dixon passed away so suddenly from COVID-19. Capo, who, despite his transfer, still sometimes slept over at the 32 dorm, recalled seeing his old partner a few days earlier. He noted Dixon looked a bit thinner, but simply attributed it to the relentless work schedule. "He was a big-framed guy and so he looked a little tired. A few days later, he went home sick and stayed home, but it turned out

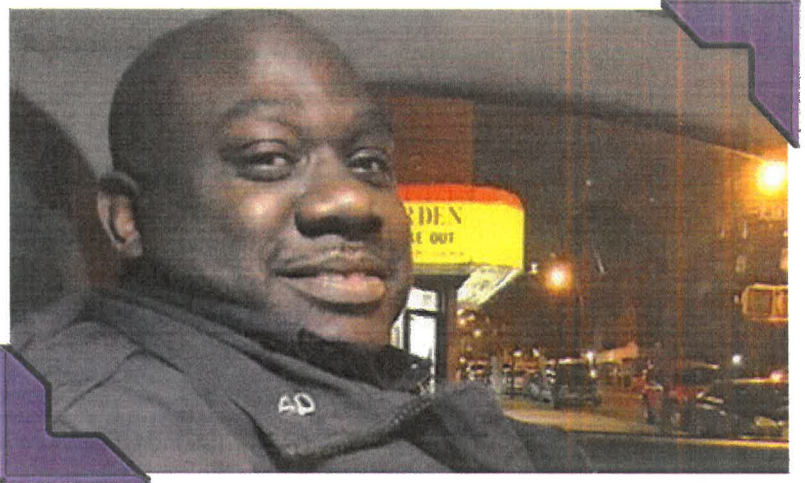
## Det. Cedric Dixon



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he was rushed to the hospital. Within two or three days, Cedric was gone. They woke me up at the dorm to give me the news. I was dumbfounded. I was so overtaken by the moment. We never considered that he wouldn't recover. It also really hurt that we couldn't give him a proper wake or funeral, given the pandemic regulations of the City and the State."

"He didn't want the attention, and he never wanted anyone to make a fuss over him," his wife Kyra relates, "but I find myself now talking about him all the time." Kyra appreciates, she says, the attention the union, Paul DiGiacomo, and Cedric's colleagues have been showering on the family. "Everyone has reached out, and everyone has been wonderful, despite the quarantine," she says. "And my house is still filled with machines that Cedric brought home to repair for people, and I am not sure who they belong to, because he was in the middle of fixing them when he took ill."



Kyra assesses her husband this way: "Cedric was a wonderful man. He loved our children, and he loved my mother, who lives near us, and she loved him." She quotes her mother, Sandra Stevens, as summing up Cedric's life this way: "He was simply the nicest man I have ever known."