

The Gold Shield Fall 2019



On May 7, 2018, Department brass paid a visit to Det. Veve (in the foreground with wife Mathes and daughter Darshee) before his walk out from the Kessler Institute for Rehabilitation. Pictured from left are Deputy Commissioner of Internal Affairs Joseph J. Reznick, Chief of Staff Raymond Spinella, Chief of Department Terence A. Monahan, Supervising Chief Surgeon Dr. Eli J. Kleinman, First Deputy Commissioner Benjamin B. Tucker, former CO of the 67 Precinct Inspector Joseph Gulotta, Police Commissioner James P. O'Neill, Chief of Detectives Dermot F. Shea, Deputy Commissioner of Employee Relations Robert L. Ganley, Chief of Patrol Rodney K. Harrison, and former Assistant Chief of Brooklyn South Steven Powers.

On Saturday, June 3, 2017, at approximately 23:45 hours, a call came over the radio regarding shots fired from a house party at 5312 Tilden Avenue, between East 53rd and 54th Streets in the East Flatbush section of Brooklyn. When 67 Precinct cops arrived at the residence, the noise turned out to be fireworks. But across the street, four teenagers were lingering suspiciously in a black Honda Civic. When plainclothes, 67 Precinct, anti-crime Police Officer Dalsh Veve approached the driver's side of the car to investigate, the teen behind the wheel floored the gas. Officer Veve somehow became attached to the automobile and was dragged with the car. As the Honda

made a right turn northbound on East 53rd Street, Veve managed to free one arm, release his firearm from its holster, and squeeze off two shots. A bullet hit the driver in the face. After dragging the Officer about a block-and-a-half at a speed that reached almost 60 miles per hour, the teenager crashed the Honda into a truck and Veve was thrown from the side of the vehicle.

Veve's body tumbled into the street. The driver and his three, teenaged cohorts fled on foot. Veve's partner, P.O. Michael Becker, who chased the car as soon as he saw his colleague being dragged, realized Veve was knocked out and seriously injured. He and other responding col-

leagues didn't wait for an ambulance: they immediately put the unconscious Veve into a patrol car and rushed him to Kings County Hospital Center. The 36-year-old Officer was instantly attended to by trauma physicians. He did not regain consciousness and had obviously suffered serious head trauma.

The perpetrator — 15-year-old Justin Murrell of Brooklyn — showed up later at Brookdale Hospital, and when his facial gunshot wound was reported to police, Detectives arrived to take him into custody. His cohorts were also located and arrested. The Honda was traced to a May 26, 2017 report of a stolen car owned by a pizza establishment in a shopping center in Nassau County.

P.O. Veve spent weeks in a medically induced coma, and doctors were cautious about predicting any recovery from the devastating damage caused by his violent encounter. Even after Veve awoke from the coma, the body trauma inhibited the Detective's ability to gesture or to speak.

On June 22, 2017, Veve was transferred to the Kessler Institute for Rehabilitation in West Orange, New Jersey, where he began a regimen of intense physical therapy. From the start, his wife Mathes kept her husband serenaded with recorded music that he loves. His family, friends, and colleagues continued to keep vigil at his bedside, attending to his needs.

After a few months, Veve miraculously started making meaningful progress, and slowly regained some small motor coordination. By January 2018, the Detective began to register signs of recognition when his family came to visit.

The NYPD responded in kind: on October 27, 2017, Police Commissioner James P. O'Neill promoted Veve to first grade Detective.

Crucial to the Detective's recovery has been the steadfast attention and care delivered by his intrepid and devoted wife, Mathes. Also known by her middle name of Esther, Mathes met Dalsh in junior high. He and Mathes also went to high school together, but did not become friends until they wound up at the same college. When Mathes later transferred to Lehman College in the Bronx, Dalsh wound up there, too.

"I always tell him that he was stalking me!" Mathes jokes, but the couple had a lot more in common than just their schools: they had both emigrated from Haiti in the 1990s,

following family members who had previously settled in the United States.

Mathes first studied engineering, but an incident with her grandmother's health made her realize there was more importance and reward in doing something where she could render personal medical assistance. Fortuitously, she switched her career path to nursing. Although she's currently on leave, she's employed by St. John's Episcopal Hospital in Queens. She began dating Dalsh in 2007 and the couple married in 2012.

For Dalsh — who the *New York Times* wrote was "raised in a large family that valued education" — it was a dream come true when he was appointed to the New York Police Department on January 17, 2008. According to Mathes, although Dalsh graduated from Lehman with a degree in anthropology, biology, and chemistry, he wanted to become a Police Officer since he was a little boy.

"It was truly a calling for him," she says. Veve began his career in 2009 in the 79 Precinct's Impact Unit, and briefly spent a few months in Brooklyn North's Impact Zone. He transferred to the 67 in 2011 and worked his way up to the precinct's Anti-Crime Unit. He has 353 arrests to his credit, and 29 commendations: 22 for meritorious police duty and seven for excellent police duty.



On Wednesday, October 24, 2018, Det. Veve was presented with the "Patrol Borough Brooklyn South Assistant Chief Patrick D. Brennan Cop of the Year Award." His recovery continues. Photo courtesy of Matthew Bencivenga of the NYPD Photo Unit.

May
2018

Police Commissioner James O'Neill, along with NYPD brass and colleagues of all ranks, give Dalsh Veve — who was promoted to first grade Detective on October 27, 2017 — a hero's "walk out" from the Kessler Institute for Rehabilitation on May 7, 2018. With Det. Veve are his devoted wife Mathes and their daughter Darshee.



"He enjoys what he does with his Precinct so much," says Mathes. "He would come home and talk about it. He knows it's risky, but that was the risk he took. He dedicates his life to policing." She describes her husband as an "adrenaline junkie" and a "people person" who literally gets that joyous "high" from lending a hand. "Dalsh rarely says 'no,' so he is perfect for policing," Mathes adds. "He's always putting everyone else first. His purpose in life is to help others and he does it well." Neighbors at his suburban home told the *New York Post* that Veve was known for volunteering to assist anyone in need, and called him a "truly remarkable man."

Despite his life-threatening injuries, by March 2018, Veve miraculously started to recognize other visitors who came to see him, gesturing with a "thumbs up" sign; and he has since begun to take a few steps with therapy assistance and the aid of a rolling walker.

As for the perpetrators — one of the car's passengers, 20-year-old Lonney McKie, immediately began cooperating with Investigators. Two female passengers, Eboni Clinton and Jeronda Oliver, both also age 20, were each charged with hindering prosecution, but they both pled out and are now cooperating. The driver, Murrell, has a significant pedigree that includes burglary and larceny. He was charged with Attempted Murder in the Second

Degree and Assault in the First Degree. At his arraignment, he pleaded not guilty.

On Monday, May 7, 2018, Det. Dalsh Veve was given a hero's "walk out" from the Kessler Institute. Hundreds of Officers of all ranks, including Police Commissioner O'Neill, cheered on Dalsh, Mathes, and their three-year-old daughter Darshee, who sat on her father's lap as they wheeled him to the van that transported them back home to their suburban digs. The Police Department, colleagues, and friends raised the monies required to reconfigure the Veve residence to accommodate his special needs for wheelchair accessibility and rehabilitation. Veve will continue a regimen of intensive therapy. And thanks to the devotion, unwavering faith, and inexhaustible optimism of his wife, first grade Det. Dalsh Veve continues to make steady progress.

The DEA is proud to bestow its May 2018 Detective of the Month honors on this most worthy, brave, resolute, and determined member of the New York Police Department. Please keep Det. Veve and his family in your thoughts and prayers for his continued recovery.

Dear Paul,

There's a saying, "Gratitude is the best attitude ..."

I just want to take the time to thank you for everything you have done for me, Dalsh, and Darshee this past year.

Soon after Dalsh's promotion, you introduced yourself and you have been a great support in more ways than one can imagine. Thank you for introducing me to the DEA legal team and their much needed services. Looking back, I was at my highest vulnerability, focusing on Dalsh's well-being was my priority. However, with patience and kindness, you and the team were able to get through to me and help put things that I never thought of into perspective, as we all continue to hope for the best outcome for Dalsh.

Back in July, I reached yet another low after my mom left and I needed help with Darshee. Once again, you guys came through. I can go on and on and on, but I'd rather not.

Fast forward, now that the storm has calmed and all the winds and gusts have tapered off, I cannot help but think how God sent you and the team as his Angels during my time of need. Thank you for answering that call that has impacted my life and my family's lives. And for that, my family and I are thankful for you and the DEA team.

If there is any way that Dalsh, Darshee, and I can be useful to you or the DEA, please let us know. We would love to return the favor.

Regards,

The Vévés



Dear Paul,

Thank you for your thoughtful seating arrangement at the Villa Roma at the DEA Winter Convention. Carla Caccavale went "above and beyond" to guide Darshee and I through the activities and make the weekend great. I am touched and grateful for her help. I am also grateful for the many widows and children who shared their unique stories.

My heartfelt thanks to the DEA for a great time and great memories.

Esther and Darshee



Detective Palladino,

As a retired New York State Criminal Court Officer, I'm outraged by (Judge) Ruth Shillingford. This person does not deserve to be a Judge. She has no respect for anyone in law enforcement.

Det. Dalsh Veve was nearly killed in the line of duty. He has brain damage and is in a wheelchair. Justin Murrell has a long arrest record and will be out in less than four years. What message does this send the Criminal Court Officers who have great respect for the NYPD? I have attended too many funerals for those killed in the line of duty. Thankfully, Detective Veve is on a long road to recovery.

I just want to address my outrage over this. I wonder if the victim had been a Judge and not a Police Officer, would she be so lenient? I doubt it.

I just want to offer my support. You are the "Greatest Detectives in the World."

Tom Lyons

The sentencing for Justin Murrell, the perpetrator who dragged Det. Dalsh Veve with a stolen auto on June 3, 2017, took place in Kings County Supreme Court on January 23, 2019. Murrell was sentenced to only 1-1/3 to 4 years by Judge Ruth E. Shillingford. Said DEA President Michael J. Palladino, "I share Pat Lynch's anger. What I witnessed in Court ... is a clear example of how a defective law interferes with justice, and how the Court simply disregarded the risks and dangers that cops face protecting the public." He added, "The no bail, no jail policy of our political leaders in this State should anger all cops and hard-working, law-abiding citizens of New York."

