

Family and friends grieve

For slain police officer

Hundreds honor hero constable



Rev. Thomas Greene, (left), of Grace Anglican Church, Markham, accompanied by Pastor Bryce Taylor of Toronto, lead pall-bearers and family relatives past an honor guard of police officers to the grave site of Constable Douglas Tribbling.

Constable Tribbling died Aug. 21 in North York General Hospital after being shot four times while investigating a burglary on Steelcase Avenue. —Jim Thomas



Heads bowed, family relatives and friends grieve at the grave side of slain York Regional Police Constable Douglas Tribbling. Constable Tribbling's three daughters, Kelly, Robin and Valerie are on the left. Before leaving, each family

member placed floral tributes on the casket. The cemetery, west of Kennedy Road, north of Unionville, is near where officer Tribbling once lived. —Jim Thomas

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(Cont'd from A-1)

The funeral service, five days after the officer was calously gunned down inside a Markham computer firm on Steelcase Road, was held from Grace Anglican Church, Parkway Avenue, Markham. It was attended by an estimated 2,000 people, including more than 1,500 uniformed police from all across Canada. Earlier, hundreds visited the Dixon-Garland Chapel in Markham to pay their respects. Floral tributes, three rows deep, circled the room. One, from the York Regional Police Association read simply, "In Respect and Admiration." Another came from Coadale, Alberta and still another from Vancouver, British Columbia.

Doug Tribbling was born in Markham Village, one of six in the family of Fred and Doris Tribbling. His father managed the Red & White Store on Main Street.

Doug received his elementary education at Mt. Joy, Colty Corners and Unionville (S.S. 10) Public Schools and Stouffville High. Later, he enrolled at Danforth Tech in a combined clerical and auto mechanics course. He hitch-hiked back and forth each day. Following graduation, he worked for a time at Jack Stephenson's service station in But-terville. On days off, he drove a cement truck for Carl Forrester of Cashel.

It was Harvey Cox, then the Police Chief of Markham Township who saw in Doug Tribbling the potential of a competent police office clerk. He placed him on staff, March 15, 1956 and out of that association emerged a close relationship that would remain through 28 years.

Six months later, he was made a constable and in September, 1965, was promoted to the rank of detective. The regional force came into being in 1971.

While police work was Doug Tribbling's life, he never forgot his roots, a fact that was stressed by pastor Bryce Taylor at Friday's service. The words "I'm proud to be a farmer" were engraved on the side of his truck.

Officer Tribbling also had an intense love for cars, the 1972 Oldsmobile Cutlass in particular. Whenever he'd see one, even while on patrol, he'd jot down the license

number and later contact the owner. His niece, Deanna Pierce of Robinson Street, Markham, has such an automobile. It was part of the funeral cortege, Friday afternoon. Another is owned by Carolyn Galloway, Constable Tribbling's girlfriend.

Officer Tribbling was immaculate. His impeccable appearance was a personal identity that followed him through life: "a compulsive perfectionist," said pastor Taylor.

The minister, his voice sometimes breaking with emotion, spoke of "the Doug Tribblings in our communities" and what they represent to society. He described him as "the perfect officer in an imperfect world."

The speaker talked of Constable Tribbling's love for his three daughters, the closeness of his brothers and sisters and the respect with which he was held by fellow officers.

It is really too much, he said, to expect officers, like Constable Tribbling to risk their lives for us, but they do it every day "for there are those whose desire is to tear down society, parasites who live off the strengths of others."

He described officer Tribbling as "a hero—to me, to all of us." "Hopefully," he concluded, "the day will come when tragedies like this will no longer occur."

Pastor Taylor was assisted in the service by Rev. Thomas Greene, rector of Grace Anglican Church. Among those in attendance were-Lieut Governor John Black Aird; Solicitor General Roy McMurtry; M.P. John Gamble; M.P.P. Don Cousens; York Regional Chairman Anthony Roman; Markham Mayor Carole Bell and Whitchurch-Stouffville Mayor Eldred King.

Service at the cemetery was reserved mainly for family members and friends. A police honor guard stood at attention, then saluted as the casket was borne to the flower-decked grave.

"Doug has come home," said brother Rick sadly, "this is where he would want to be."

A \$50,000 reward has been offered by the York Regional Police Commission plus a \$5,000 reward from the Town of Markham for information leading to the killer's arrest.

Editor's Mail

Fun event

Dear Editor:
Your newspaper had a lot of nerve writing about something you know nothing about.

Did you, as editor, attend the party at Dickson's Hill? Did you talk to the people there? Did you speak to the people who live there?

The answer, I presume, is "no". Instead, you took the word of a few loud-mouths in the community who tend to forget that they were once teenagers too.

Nothing happened that night that doesn't happen when a couple of hundred young people get together anywhere. I, for one, resent the suggestion that it was an 'orgy'. For me, it was a fun event that I'll attend next year if it's held.

Sincerely,
Michael Koblenky,
R.R. 2, Claremont
Editor's Note: I called at the property on two occasions on the Monday following the party, but found no one home.