

# Officer Mathew J. Mazany

## Mentor Police Department

Patrolman Mathew “Mat” Mazany was a throwback kind of cop.

He didn’t believe in writing long, extravagant police reports, or in being politically correct every second of his shift. He’d tell you how it was, and then he’d move on.

“When I say Mat was an old-school cop, I don’t call into question his ability or knowledge to do the job,” retired Mentor Police Sgt. Scott Tkach, who supervised Mazany for six years, said at his funeral.

“He knew what he was doing, and he did it well. He just did it a little bit different from most of us.”

Police work was in Mazany’s genes. His father was a police officer for 50 years in the Army and, later, in Maple Heights. From a young age, Mazany knew he wanted to follow in his dad’s footsteps.

“If you knew Mat, Mat would never fight for himself when we were in school,” his best friend, Jamie Bassell, said at the funeral. “But if someone else was getting in trouble or someone else was getting bullied, Mat was the first one to step in. That’s the kind of person he was.”

The Mentor resident could also be charming, and his sense of humor cracked up friends and family members.

He was a devoted family man described by his son, also named Mat, as a nerd of sorts.

“Star Wars, Marvel, Transformers, ‘Metal Gear’ — he loved it all,” his son, 20 at the time, said at his father’s funeral.

The two were known to discuss the politics of the Clone Wars from Star Wars, and Officer Mazany’s ringtone played the introduction to the video game “Metal Gear Solid.”



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Of course, it’s easy to see that a big portion of Officer Mazany’s attraction to these “nerd” games and movies was spending time with his son.

The elder Mazany also loved cigars, sports cars, his motorcycle and his wife of 22 years, Lisa. And he loved being a cop and working with his fellow officers in the Cleveland suburb of Mentor.

In his 14 years with the department, Mazany worked 12-hour midnight shifts. He was honored with the department’s Exceptional Service Award, and Mentor residents had written the department about his professionalism and compassion.

“Mentor was a safer place and the Mentor PD was a better police department because of Mat,” Tkach said.

Early on June 24, 2018, a Mentor police officer had pulled over a person wanted in another jurisdiction, and Officer Mazany, 41, arrived to assist. As he began to approach the vehicle, a Jeep struck him and drove off.

He was rushed to a nearby hospital but didn’t survive.

The driver of the Jeep was located a few hours later. The man — who, tests showed, had alcohol, heroin and fentanyl in his system — was charged with second-degree aggravated vehicular homicide, among other counts.

Besides his wife and son, Mazany is survived by his father, Michael S. Mazany; siblings, Michael J. Mazany (Danica) and Cindy Bradshaw; nephew, Alexander Devine; niece, Ashley Derda; friends; and his brothers in blue.

“His love was truly unconditional,” Bassell said. “It really pains me that Mat won’t be able to watch his son grow into a man. He’ll never have that drink with him for his 21st birthday.”