

1979

Detective Ed Wild

Mentor on the Lake Police Department

Detective Ed Wild was honored as the Blue Coats “Man of the Year” award for 1979, for his involvement in a case that seemed eerily similar to the case worked on by two Eastlake detectives in 1978. However, that similarity ended shortly after the investigation began, when on October 8th, 1979, a body washed up on to a beach in Mentor on the Lake. In this case however, the body was badly decomposed, and was found to have 10 stab wounds. It was then weighted down with a thick chain and a small metal anchor prior to being thrown into the water.

Detective Wild was assigned the case and immediately set about to identify the victim. There was virtually nothing that could be used to identify the body, but Wild, with no forensic equipment, used his ingenuity to fashion a face with the miscellaneous file of an identification kit, using only the height, weight, and general build fields. Taking the results of his efforts to the Cleveland Police Department, Wild was soon able to tentatively identify a missing person as his victim. This person had been missing since July, 1979. Dental charts on file with the United States Marine Corps were then used to positively identify the victim. Continued investigation led to, at the time of the awards, pending arrests for the suspects in the murder of the victim.

Mentor on the Lake Police Chief William Chamar, a former Blue Coats award winner himself, nominated Wild for the award. He stated that Wild’s “enthusiasm, interest, dedication, and determination were not to be thwarted by a serious lack of equipment. These are attributes that should be publicly recognized and rewarded.”

Chamar’s nomination was accepted and Wild was recognized on December 5, 1979, at the Kirtland Country Club.

Wild went on to become the Chief of Police in Mentor on the Lake. He retired from that position, and passed away in August, 2002.