

1994

Patrolman Jamie R. Walsh

Wickliffe Police Department

1994 was a year that the City of Wickliffe would rather forget. Two horrendous shooting incidents rocked the city. Three people died, four others were seriously wounded, and 2 suspects were in custody. Numerous lives were forever changed.

The first of these incidents occurred in June. A shooting took place at a Lakeland Boulevard apartment, where young adults gathered for rock band practice. A shooting at the location resulted in the murder of a male and a female, and a third male victim was badly wounded.

The Wickliffe Police Department conducted an intensive investigation and identified Richard Pinto as the suspect. For five days, Pinto remained at large, eluding police and keeping the community in a heightened state of fear.

On June 8th, the police department located Pinto, and Officer Jamie Walsh chased him into a Ridge Road home. Back outside, Pinto and Walsh got into a struggle as Pinto resisted the attempts to arrest him. During the struggle, Walsh's service weapon accidentally fired, striking Pinto and paralyzing him.

Police Chief James Fox nominated Walsh for the award. Noting that the shot was accidental, Fox stated that deadly force was completely justified at that point. "I am proud of Jamie for telling his supervisor that it (the shooting) was accidental during the struggle, instead of trying to be a hero. Patrolman Walsh showed great courage."

It's not often that multiple officers from one department are honored by the Blue Coats for separate events in the same year. However, they found the nomination of Officer Walsh and that of three other Wickliffe officers to be deserving of what is arguably the highest award given in Lake County.

Walsh accepted his award at the Blue Coats annual banquet on February 1, 1995.