

'Officer Dee' ^P Dies At 31 ^{Bug}

To fellow officer Tom Watson, DeVane Pezzola was "One hell of a street cop."

To thousands of Santa Cruz children he was Officer Dee, the big blond man with the silver star who showed them his squad car, who wove interesting stories and taught them how to be safe on their bicycles.

Memories were stirred and tributes poured forth this morning as the word spread of Pezzola's death Thursday night following a bout with is believed to be meningitis.

"It's a real personal tragedy to all of us here," said Police Chief Geno Pini, turning to look out of his City Hall office where the flag issued a soft salute from half-staff in the courtyard.

Pini outlined the brief police career of Pezzola, 31, who joined the force in August, 1971. Assigned to patrol division, he was severely injured just two



DeVane Pezzola

months later on his way to work when a motorist ran a stop sign at Walnut and Center streets.

Pezzola had his spleen re-

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news conference in Jerusalem that it was completed but that Israeli troops would remain un-

Hermon close to a military units advancing inland, the observers said.

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moved during six hours of emergency surgery that followed, and the loss of his spleen may have figured in his death.

In 1976, Pezzola was named to head the department's Community Awareness Program and in the following two years spoke to nearly every Santa Cruz school child and to some 18,000 homeowners and renters, explained Pini.

"Due to his efforts, 43 neighborhood watch programs have been set up covering 775 homes. Since those programs began there has been only one burglary, that to a remote garage," said Pezzola's chief.

Along the way, letter after letter of praise came to the department. "There have been so many we had to take them out of his personnel file and put them in a new community awareness file," said Pini.

Wrote one citizen: "It's refreshing to deal with a professional police officer...this was my first experience with one of your officers and his training and expertise was self-evident."

In March, 1977, the American Legion honored Pezzola for his efforts by naming him Officer of the Year.

"His greatest frustration was public apathy toward crime," said partner Sgt. Richard Damon. It drove him harder, Damon explained, in the Community Awareness Program. Calling Pezzola "One hell of a street cop," Watson explained, "I guess that's just about the best compliment one cop can give to another."

"If I ever had to go into a tough situation, he'd be the one I'd want to go in with me. Yet he was good with kids — school kids and his own kids; he loved his family."

Pezzola is survived by his wife, the former Judy Konkel, and two daughters, Laura, 3, and Cheryl Elizabeth, 1.

Other survivors include his

parents DeVane "Spike" and Elizabeth "Lee" Pezzola, and a brother, Michael, all of Santa Cruz, and by several uncles, aunts and cousins.

A native of San Jose, he graduated from Bellarmine Prep and attended Santa Clara University before moving to Santa Cruz.

An avid golfer, he was a member of the DeLaveaga Men's Club.

A standout football player for Bellarmine, he also volunteered his services to the football program at Marelo High School, where he was an assistant varsity coach.

The Rosary will be recited at Holy Cross Church Sunday at 7:30 p.m. A Mass of the Resurrection will be celebrated at the church Monday at 9:30 a.m. with internment to follow at Holy Cross Cemetery.

Friends may call at Norman's Family Chapel, 3620, Soquel Drive, Soquel, Saturday from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. and Sunday from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.

A Dee Pezzola Memorial Fund has been established at the West Side County Bank branch.

Dial Your

Horoscope

Day or Night

ARIES.....	425-7171
TAURUS.....	425-7172
GEMINI.....	425-7173
CANCER.....	425-7174
LEO.....	425-7175
VIRGO.....	425-7176
LIBRA.....	425-7177
SCORPIO.....	425-7178
SAGITTARIUS.....	425-7179
CAPRICORN.....	425-7180
AQUARIUS.....	425-7181
PISCES.....	425-7182

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