

01-16-1951 Otis John Whan IL Game Warden Lake Ice Vehicle

## Investigator Otis John Whan

<https://www.odmp.org/officer/14040-investigator-otis-john-whan>



*Illinois Department of Conservation - Division of Law Enforcement, Illinois*

End of Watch Tuesday, January 16, 1951



### OTIS JOHN WHAN

Investigator Otis Whan drowned when the vehicle he was riding in broke through river ice and became submerged.

Investigator Whan was conducting checks of commercial fishing operations on the Mississippi River north of New Boston in Mercer County and had gone onto the 16-inch thick ice to check a group of fisherman who had driven their vehicles onto the river. After conducting the checks, the men offered to drive Investigator Whan back to his service vehicle.

As their vehicle was driven over a layer of ice that was only two inches thick, the ice gave way causing the vehicle to become submerged some 14 feet below the river's surface, drowning all its occupants.

### BIO

- **Age** 38
- **Tour** Not available
- **Badge** Not available

### INCIDENT DETAILS

- **Cause** Drowned

### OTIS JOHN WHAN

<http://names.lawmemorial.org/officers/w/otis-john-whan.html>

**Officer Rank:** Inspector

**Memorial Panel:** 6-E: 20

**Department:** Illinois Dept. of Natural Resources & Conservation

**End of Watch:** January 16, 1951

**Cause:** DROW

**Age:** 39

**Years of Service:** Unk



**Description:** Inspector Whan was on assignment monitoring commercial fishermen. At the end of the day, he accepted a ride back with two other fishermen and their vehicle broke through the ice and they all drowned.

## Emotions ride high as Q-C honors its police officers killed in the line of duty

[https://qctimes.com/news/local/emotions-ride-high-as-q-c-honors-its-police-officers-killed-in-the-line-of/article\\_cbc99906-d9e8-5bbf-bdab-f01df6ac4e5e.html](https://qctimes.com/news/local/emotions-ride-high-as-q-c-honors-its-police-officers-killed-in-the-line-of/article_cbc99906-d9e8-5bbf-bdab-f01df6ac4e5e.html)

May 7, 2006 Jennifer DeWitt

Every 53 hours an officer is killed in the line of duty. Every 53 hours a family is left wondering why.

Officers like Colona, Ill., auxiliary officer Ty Massey, whose mother Joan still thinks of him each and every day even 13 years after he gave his life while investigating a report of car in the Rock River.

Officers like Adam Streicher, a Stark County, Ill., sheriff's deputy, whose death in 2002 at the hands of a man he was serving a warrant to makes him the area's latest law enforcement officer killed on the job.

And officers like Otis John Whan, an Illinois Department of Conservation investigator, whose 1951 death was only recently realized by a committee researching the area's fallen heroes for the Quad-Cities Law Enforcement Officers Memorial Service.

These three men were among a total of 41 area officers whose lives were celebrated and whose sacrifices remembered Saturday when dozens of fellow police officers, family members, friends, police chaplains and others gathered for the sixth annual Quad-Cities Law Enforcement Officers Memorial Service.

"It's a tough day. This is the somber part," said Davenport police Pfc. Eric Gruenhagen, a member of the committee. "But this is important because we honor the families and we're trying to honor each other."