

05-27-2002 Rocky Boy Montana – Robert Taylor – Tribal LEO – Rescue Attempt

Tribal policeman drowned attempting rescue

http://missoulian.com/uncategorized/tribal-policeman-drowned-attempting-rescue/article_105f93f9-d346-5b45-ae70-86e34202a302.html

May 29, 2002 The Associated Press

ROCKY BOY - A tribal police officer from the Rocky Boy's Indian Reservation drowned on a reservoir here after diving in to save a person clinging to a capsized boat.

The officer was identified as Robert Taylor, 43. Divers were searching for his body Tuesday.

Stan Gardipee, a tribal investigator, said Taylor responded to a 9-1-1 call Monday evening after someone reported seeing two people tip their small boat in the cold water of the Bonneau Reservoir.

One of the boaters already had made it to safety by the time Taylor arrived, but the second person was clinging to the overturned boat about 75 yards from shore, Gardipee said.

Taylor swam toward the boat, but went underwater a short distance from it and never surfaced, said witness Joe Morsette.

"He didn't even say anything," Morsette said. "He didn't even make any effort to holler."



OFFICER DOWN MEMORIAL PAGE



REMEMBERING ALL OF LAW ENFORCEMENT'S HEROES



Police Officer

Robert James Taylor, Sr.

Rocky Boy's Tribal Police Department, Tribal Police

End of Watch: Monday, May 27, 2002

Officer Robert Taylor drowned while attempting to rescue a man who had capsized in a small rowboat in the Bonneau Reservoir on the Rocky Boy Reservation during the Memorial Day holiday.

One other occupant of the boat was able to swim to shore. Officer Taylor attempted to swim to the boat in the cold water, which was about 75 feet from shore.

When he was approximately 15 feet from the boat, he went under water and never resurfaced. The man he was attempting to rescue was able to make it to shore with the help of other people who were on the scene. Officer Taylor's body was recovered two days later.

Officer Taylor had served with the Rocky Boy's Tribal Police Department for 6 years. He is survived by his wife, daughter, and five sons.

**Officer
Robert Taylor**

Age: 43

Tour: 6 years

Badge # 38

Cause: Drowned

Location: Montana

Rocky Boy's Tribal Officer Drowned.

<https://forum.officer.com/forum/public-forums/officer-down-news-memorials/7768-rocky-boy-s-tribal-officer-drowned>

05-30-2002

Officer Robert Taylor, tribal police officer with the Rocky Boy's Chippewa Cree Reservation police department drowned at about 1830 Monday in an attempt to rescue a fisherman. Officer Taylors body has not yet been recovered.

Rocky Boy tribal officer buried with full honors

http://helenair.com/news/state-and-regional/rocky-boy-tribal-officer-buried-with-full-honors/article_716fb3fa-b2d7-59a7-b964-9c202c43264f.html

Jun 2, 2002 By the AP

ROCKY BOY (AP) — Rocky Boy tribal officer Robert Taylor, who died trying to save two capsized boaters, was buried with full honors Friday on a hillside overlooking a stream on the RJ Quarter Horse Ranch.

Other officers carried the casket of the 116th Montana lawman to die in the line of duty and the first ever on the Rocky Boy's Indian Reservation.

About 80 law officers from across the state attended.

Taylor, 43, drowned Monday in Bonneau Reservoir while attempting to rescue two fishermen whose boat had overturned.

"Our officers have had a lot of sleepless nights until we found the body of our brother," Police Chief Art Windy Boy said. "This is the first time this has happened on this reservation, and we have retired his badge, No. 38."

Services were in Our Savior Lutheran Church, with sweetgrass smoke drifting through the circular chapel as dozens of lawmen waited outside.

Inside the chapel, tribal singers pounded their drums and wailed the Honor Song. Taylor was a member of the tribal singers.

An honor guard fired a 21-gun salute and then a police dispatcher said, "Officer Robert Taylor is 10-42, 10-10." His amplified voice reverberated through police radios in squad cars and on the officers' lapels.

"That means that Robert is now off-duty and going home," a bystander said.