

06-25-1995 Beloit KS – Daniel D Trail – LEO Attempted Surface Rescue Dam



OFFICER DOWN MEMORIAL PAGE



REMEMBERING ALL OF LAW ENFORCEMENT'S HEROES

<http://www.odmp.org/officer/846-patrolman-daniel-david-trail>



Bio & Incident Details

Age: 28

Tour: Not available

Badge # 607

Cause: Drowned

Patrolman

Daniel David Trail

Beloit Police Department, Kansas

End of Watch: Sunday, June 25, 1995

The Salina Journal from Salina, Kansas

<https://www.newspapers.com/newspage/3441131/>

June 25, 2005

Officer Daniel Trail drowned while attempting to rescue a group of teenagers from a river. The group of teenagers had been drinking and decided to go tubing. The river was extremely rough and the group got stuck in some rapids after going over a dam. Officer Trail and a local firefighter attempted a rescue but both fell in. The firefighter survived the incident. Officer Trail's body was not found for several days. No charges were filed against the group of drunk teenagers.

Officer Trail is survived by his mother, father, sister, and two brothers.

.DAN TRAIL REMEMBERED

Officer gave his life trying to save others

Beloit officer drowned in Solomon River 10 years ago today

June 25, 2005 By TIM UNRUH Saliim Journal .

BELOIT — Derick Coffield caught blurred images of people on the river banks, trying in vain to pull him and friend Brad Ghapin out of the bank- full Solomon River. "I remember praying to God that I would get out of this and that Brad would be OK," said Coffield. 29.

They made it, but it wasn't a happy ending.

In the effort to save them after a tubing excursion went awry, Beloit Police Officer Dan Trail fell into the rapids and was pulled under by a strong undertow. His body was discovered 48 hours later downstream from the spillway where the young men attempted to go over the dam on that hot Sunday afternoon 10 years ago today.

Trail, 27, a native of Colby, had been part of the Beloit Police Department less than two months. The Solomon was running full from water released from Glen Elder Reservoir, about 12 miles upstream. The spillway was an inviting challenge for Coffield and Chapin, both from Beloit.

"We thought we'd just go right down the spillway and that it would push us out," Coffield said. They hit the bottom of the spillway but the rolling water kept them in the torrent. "The undertow was trying to suck you down," he said, "it's like you were caught in a washing machine, not going anywhere." It seemed there was no escape.

Coffield said he fought to stay on the inner tube and tried to work his way out. But water was rushing over the top of the tube. He was trapped. Yells for help A Beloit volunteer firefighter, Allen Mong, was nearby, fishing with his parents, sister and future wife, Tammi Stewart.

They heard yells for help and ran to investigate. Others began to gather around. A lifeguard brought a rescue pole from the city swimming pool about 150 yards away.

Coffield said someone threw him a rope from the foot bridge upstream from the spillway, but he was too heavy to pull out against the stream.

DANIEL D. TRAIL

<http://genealogytrails.com/kan/lineofduty6.html>

Officer presumed drowned in rescue attempt at river
Beloit- A police officer who helped rescue two men trapped in a rain-swollen river himself was swept away and was presumed drowned.

The body of Officer Daniel D. Trail, 27, hadn't been recovered by late afternoon Monday. He disappeared this weekend in the rain-swollen Solomon River.

Two 19 year old men became trapped in the turbulence just below the dam after riding innertubes down the Solomon from several miles west of Beloit, said Beloit police chief Patrick N. Shea.

One of the men was trapped above a spillway near the north bank and another was trapped in the back roll of the spillway near the south bank.

A Mitchell county deputy was able to rescue the man on the north bank.

Trail a fireman and two other people tried to reach the other man with a rescue pole. Trail and the fireman fell into the water. The fireman and the trapped man were able to break free from the current, but Trail was pulled under by the current and undertow, Shea said.

Trail had been working as a police officer in Beloit since April. He previously had worked in Atwood and Colby. (Hutchinson News, June 27, 1995, page 23)

Ptl. Daniel D. Trail

27 years old

Beloit Police Dept.

Beloit, KS

Ptl. Trail drowned on June 25, 1995 while attempting to rescue a group of teenagers from a river. The group of teenagers had been drinking and decided to go tubing. The river was extremely rough and they group got stuck in the some rapids after going over a dam. Ofc. Trail and a local firefighter attempted a rescue attempt and both fell in. The firefighter survived the incident. Ofc. Trial's body was not found for several days. No charges were filed against the group of drunken teenagers.