

07-06-1993 East Orange NJ – James Fassnacht – LEO PSD – Accidental Drowning



OFFICER DOWN MEMORIAL PAGE

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<http://www.odmp.org/officer/517-sergeant-james-ralph-fassnacht>



Sergeant

James Ralph Fassnacht

Essex County Police Department, New Jersey

Bio & Incident Details
Age: 41
Tour: Not available
Badge # Not available
Cause: Drowned

End of Watch: Tuesday, July 6, 1993

Sergeant Fassnacht drowned while he and two other divers were clearing an intake screen in Weequahic Park Lake.

Sergeant Fassnacht was survived by his wife and three sons.

**JULY , 1993
NEW JERSEY**

James Fassnacht, a 42 year old police officer was killed in 15-18 feet of water on 07/06/93. The officer was asked to assist another officer in checking a screen on an intake pipe used for irrigating of a municipal golf course. Officer Fassnacht advised his dive partner that he was "uncomfortable". Officer Fassnacht stayed at the surface while his partner submerged to check the screen intake. After a short period of time, Officer Fassnacht indicated to an officer on the shore that he needed assistance. Officer Fassnacht grabbed a buoy that was on the surface, but the buoy did not support the officer. About fifteen seconds after the officer and buoy sank, the buoy popped to the surface but Officer Fassnacht did not. A search was begun and Officer Fassnacht was quickly recovered. CPR was initiated, but was pronounced dead a Beth Israel Hospital after efforts failed. The cause of death was ruled accidental drowning.