



## OFFICER DOWN MEMORIAL PAGE

REMEMBERING ALL OF LAW ENFORCEMENT'S HEROES

<https://www.odmp.org/officer/23380-sergeant-steve-perez>



### **Bio & Incident Details**

**Age:** 60

**Tour:** 34 years

**Badge #** Not available

**Cause:** Drowned

*Sergeant*

### **Steve Perez**

Houston Police Department, Texas

End of Watch: Sunday, August 27, 2017

Sergeant Steve Perez drowned after his patrol car was caught in floodwaters in the aftermath of Hurricane Harvey.

Sergeant Perez left home at approximately 4:00 a.m. in an attempt to report to his duty station in the downtown area, but was unable to reach it due to impassable roads caused by extreme flooding. He spent more than two hours trying to find a route, but when he could not, he dispatch that he would follow department protocol and report to the nearest station in Kingwood.

As he attempted to reach Kingwood his patrol car was washed away in high water in the area of Hardy Tollway and Beltway 8. His body was recovered by members of Houston Police Department dive team and citizens on August 29th, 2017.

Sergeant Perez had served with the Houston Police Department for 34 years and was just days shy of his 61st birthday. He is survived by his wife, two adult children, and father-in-law.

Sergeant Perez was a graduate of the 210th Session of the FBI National Academy.

## 'The ultimate sacrifice': Houston Police Sgt. Steve Perez drowned in Harvey floodwaters

<http://www.businessinsider.com/houston-police-officer-sergeant-steve-perez-drowned-harvey-floodwaters-2017-8>

Aug. 29, 2017 Michelle Mark

Houston officials on Tuesday confirmed the death of police Sgt. Steve Perez, who drowned in his car on Sunday after being trapped by [Harvey](#) floodwaters as he was attempting to drive to work.

Perez, 60, was a 34-year veteran of the Houston Police Department, and a "sweet, gentle public servant," police Chief Art Acevedo said at an emotional news conference Tuesday.

Acevedo said Perez had departed his home for work at 4 a.m. on Sunday amid torrential rains, and struggled for roughly two and a half hours to find a route to his duty station in downtown Houston.

"In the darkness, Sgt. Perez drove under an underpass ... and drove into the water," he said.

Perez's vehicle wasn't found until Monday night, [The Houston Chronicle first reported](#). Acevedo said the floodwaters remained too treacherous to attempt a recovery, but that officers kept watch over the area. A dive team eventually recovered his body on Tuesday morning.

"Sometimes you find a way to make it happen, or you die trying," Houston Mayor Sylvester Turner said at the news conference Tuesday. "Sgt. Perez lost his life because he tried to make it happen, he tried to get at his post ... That's the ultimate sacrifice."

Turner added that Perez had been so determined to report for duty that morning, that when his wife urged him to reconsider leaving home, he responded, "I've got work to do."

## Hurricane Harvey Takes The Life Of Houston Police Officer Steve Perez

<https://www.npr.org/sections/thetwo-way/2017/08/29/547152270/hurricane-harvey-takes-the-life-of-houston-police-officer-steve-perez>

August 29, 2017 [RICHARD GONZALES](#)



**Houston Police Sgt. Steve Perez.**  
**Houston Police Department**

**It is with a heavy heart that we announce the tragic in the line of duty death of Sergeant Steve Perez. Sergeant Perez was bravely serving the City of Houston in the face of this unprecedented weather-related disaster when his vehicle entered high water.**

**The death of Sergeant Perez reminds us of the dangers that police officers willingly face every day in order to serve this great City. We will go through this extremely difficult and trying time with heavy hearts sadly reminded of the ultimate sacrifice one of our own paid. Words cannot adequately express the sense of loss the Perez family and their extended Houston Police family are experiencing. Our hearts and prayers go out to Sergeant Perez's family, his friends, neighbors and colleagues. He is survived by his wife Cheryl, a grown son and daughter, and extended family. We ask that everyone keep him and his family in their thoughts and prayers.**

**We are proud of the courage of this 34-year veteran. Like Steve, we will not waiver and we will not stop until we meet the immediate safety and security needs of the community Steve and his HPD family love to serve.**



Houston Police say 60-year-old Sgt. Steve Perez, trying to get to work despite Hurricane Harvey, drowned in his patrol car in floodwaters.

In a somber news conference Tuesday afternoon, Police Chief Art Acevedo said Perez's wife, Cheryl, had asked her husband not to report to work Sunday morning. But Perez, who had been on the police force for 34 years and was just a few days short of his 61st birthday, insisted on going in.

"Unfortunately in the darkness, Sgt. Perez drove into an underpass that's about 16 1/2 feet, drove into the water and he died in a drowning-type event," said Acevedo, his eyes moistening.

***"I've been here only nine months. We have 6,500 employees and I knew who Steve Perez was."***  
**Houston Police Chief Art Acevedo**

"Steve is one of the sweetest people in this department and I've been here only nine months. We have 6,500 employees and I knew who Steve Perez was because he was a sweet, gentle public servant."

Perez's father-in-law, a Korean War combat veteran, also told him not to go because the conditions were so bad. "And his response was, 'We've got work to do,'" said Acevedo.

Houston Mayor Sylvester Turner said Perez was typical of all of the city employees working flood relief.

"Sometimes you find a way to make it happen, or you die in trying. Sgt. Perez lost his life because he tried to make it happen, he tried to get at his post ... that's the ultimate sacrifice," said Turner, as quoted by the [Houston Chronicle](#).

Perez left his home at 4 a.m. Sunday but was unable to get to his duty station in downtown Houston. Following protocol, he apparently was trying to report to another station in Kingwood. His body was found Monday night, but officers could not recover it from the water until Tuesday.

Perez is survived by his wife and an adult son and daughter.

## **Houston Police Sgt. Steve Perez drowns in Harvey floodwaters**

<http://www.chron.com/news/houston-texas/article/Houston-Police-officer-drowns-in-Harvey-12145510.php>

**August 30, 2017** By [St. John Barned-Smith](#) and [Mike Morris](#)

His wife warned him not to go. He insisted.

Steve Perez, a 34-year-veteran of the Houston Police Department, drowned in his car in Harvey floodwaters, a tearful Chief Art Acevedo said Tuesday afternoon. Perez, days shy of his 61st birthday, was driving to work downtown Sunday morning when he got trapped in high water.

Acevedo said Perez left home at 4 a.m. and spent more than two hours trying to get to his duty station in downtown Houston. When he could not find a path, he followed department protocol and tried to report to the nearest station, in Kingwood.

When he did not arrive for regular roll call Monday, officers called his wife, who said she had not seen him since Sunday. They narrowed their search to the Hardy Tollway and Beltway 8, Acevedo said.

Acevedo, with tears in his eyes, said officers believed they had found Perez on Monday night but could not recover his body.

"We could not put more officers at risk for what we knew in our hearts would be a recovery mission," he said. Search and rescue crews, including a dive team and a "Cajun Navy" member, recovered his body from an underpass on Tuesday, Acevedo said.

Acevedo called Perez "a sweet, gentle public servant."

The officer's death is the 15th fatality in Texas claimed by Hurricane Harvey or the rains it spawned after making landfall.

The storm has pushed the city's first response abilities to their limit; Houston police officers and firefighters and other first-responders have rescued thousands of Houstonians over the past four days.

Mayor Sylvester Turner said Tuesday afternoon that every city employee is giving "extra effort."

"Sometimes you find a way to make it happen, or you die in trying. Sgt. Perez lost his life because he tried to make it happen, he tried to get at his post...that's the ultimate sacrifice," he said.

The officer's union, as well as police agencies across the country, mourned his death.

"We have lost one of our own to this flood," the Houston Police Officers Union said in a post to Twitter.

He is survived by his adult son and daughter and his wife, Cheryl, who told him not to go into work in the heavy rains.

That message was echoed by his father-in-law, a Korean War veteran, Acevedo said.

"His response was, 'I've got work to do,'" he said. "We will continue. This police department is resilient, as is this community and I look forward to taking this man and giving him the honors and his family that he so richly deserves."