

12-27-1988 – San Antonio TX - Patricia R. Calderon – LEO – Chasing Suspect



OFFICER DOWN MEMORIAL PAGE

REMEMBERING ALL OF LAW ENFORCEMENT'S HEROES

<http://www.odmp.org/officer/2669-patrolman-patricia-r-calderon>



Bio & Incident Details
Age: 26
Tour: 5 years
Badge # Not available
Cause: Drowned

Patrolman

Patricia R. Calderon

San Antonio Police Department, Texas

End of Watch: Tuesday, December 27, 1988

Patrolman Calderon drowned when she fell into Salado Creek while chasing a suspect through thick brush at 0200 hours.

Patrolman Calderon was the first female officer from her agency to die in the line of duty. She had been with the agency for five years and was survived by her husband and child.

Ptl. Patricia R. Calderon
26 years old
San Antonio Police Dept.
San Antonio, TX

On December 27th, 1988, Patrolwoman Calderon was killed during a high-speed chase, when her patrol car sank in a creek and she was drowned. Or the officer was pursuing a robbery suspect on foot in a wooded area when she fell into the creek and drowned. (Depending on which web site you believe)

Officer Patricia R. Calderon

<http://bctpom.blogspot.com/2010/05/officer-patricia-r-calderon.html>

MONDAY, MAY 24, 2010



Officer Patricia R. Calderon - Hawkins

San Antonio Police Department, TX

Cause of Death: Drowned

End of Watch: Tuesday, December 27, 1988

Date of Incident: Tuesday, December 27, 1988

Age: 27

Badge Number: 213

Tour of Duty: 5 yr

Suspect Info: Not available

Weapon Used: N/A

Buried: Sunset Memorial

Location of Name on National and Texas Monuments

NLEOMF: P12 - E2

TPOM: 17, C, 13

Officer Calderon drowned when she fell into Salado Creek while chasing a suspect thief through thick brush at 2:00 am. At 1:51 am, Officer Calderon responded to a radio dispatch of two males who had stolen eleven packs of cigarettes from a Circle K convenience store located at 4401 Rittiman Road. The clerk called police with a description of the vehicle, after the two men departed. Officer Calderon radioed that she spotted the vehicle as it turned onto southbound I H 35 from Rittiman Road.



She advised dispatch, she would follow the vehicle and pulled it over once back up arrived. Officer Lohrke and Officer Heitzman arrived in separate units as cover.

Office Calderon stopped the vehicle near I-10 west and E. Houston Street. Officer Calderon asked the driver to get out of the vehicle and found the stolen cigarettes in the vehicle. The

passenger Louis (Popeye) B. Miller Jr. 28, also exited the vehicle and ran as Officer Calderon began a foot chase through the Point East Apartments at 3735 E. Commerce and then down into the thick brush of Salado Creek. Miller jumped into Salado Creek as Officer Calderon jumped into the creek after him.

Other officers arrived to search for Officer Calderon and Miller. Officer Calderon's last radio transmission was at 2:15 am "he's taking off his jacket."

Officers near Officer Calderon could hear splash and her scream for help and then only silence.

Several officers could not find her in the darkness and many dove in the murky water to find her but were unable to. Four hours later a volunteer dive team of five located her body. Miller swam out of the creek and escaped. There was no evidence he "contributed" to Officer Calderon's death other than by leading her on the chase.



Miller was arrested later that day and charged with Theft (misdemeanor) and misdemeanor Evading. At the time there was no law that allowed a charge against Miller for the death that resulted from a chase of a misdemeanor. The loophole allowed Miller to escape responsibility for Officer Calderon's death.

Senator Frank Tejeda changed this by sponsoring a bill named the "Endangering Law Enforcement Officers Law" also known as the

"Calderon Law" making it a Third Degree felony if an officer is killed in result of injuries from a pursuit. The bill became law and has been used since on several cases.

Officer Calderon graduated from Harlandale High School in 1981. She was a member of the school band and Captain of the Flag Team and a Student Council representative.

She joined the San Antonio Police Department in 1983. She married a fellow San Antonio officer in 1986. ----- Information from True Heroines: police women killed in the line of duty through out the United States, San Antonio Express News, and San Antonio Light

Officer Calderon was the first female officer from her agency and Bexar County area

to die in the line of duty. She was survived by her husband, 10 month old son, parents, brothers and sister.

Officer Calderon's younger brother Rogelio "Roger" Calderon III, served with Bexar County Sheriff's Office as a Deputy. He was shot and killed at his apartment by his soon to be ex-wife, who then killed herself. Deputy Calderon was entombed with his sister Officer Calderon.

Posted by [Bexar Community Texas Peace Officer Memorial](#)

Remembering SAPD officer Patricia Calderon

<http://blog.mysanantonio.com/vault/2011/05/remembering-sapd-officer-patricia-calderon/>
May 19, 2011 By Julie Domel

On Tuesday, the SAPD held a ceremony to honor fallen local law officers. The next day, we ran a poignant photo (#5 in online slideshow) on our cover of SAPD Chief William McManus hugging Officer Stephanie Brown's mother while her father wiped away tears. Brown was killed in a head-on crash with a drunk driver in March. She was the second female SAPD officer to die in the line of duty.



The first female SAPD officer to die in the line of duty was Officer Patricia Calderon who drowned in Salado Creek December 27, 1988, while pursuing a shoplifting suspect. She was 26, married to a police officer and had an infant son.

Officers from all over the state gathered at St. Leo's Catholic Church for her funeral on December 30 (Express-News file photo below).

State legislators honored Calderon the next year with the Endangering Law Enforcement Officers Law, referred to as the "Calderon Law." S.B. 916, authored by Sen. Frank Tejeda, made a charge of evading arrest a third-degree felony if a peace officer was injured or killed pursuing a fleeing suspect. Before, a suspect would only be charged with a misdemeanor. It became law on Sept. 1, 1989.



A list of all SAPD officers who died in the line of duty is available on the [SAPD website](#).

-Julie Domel