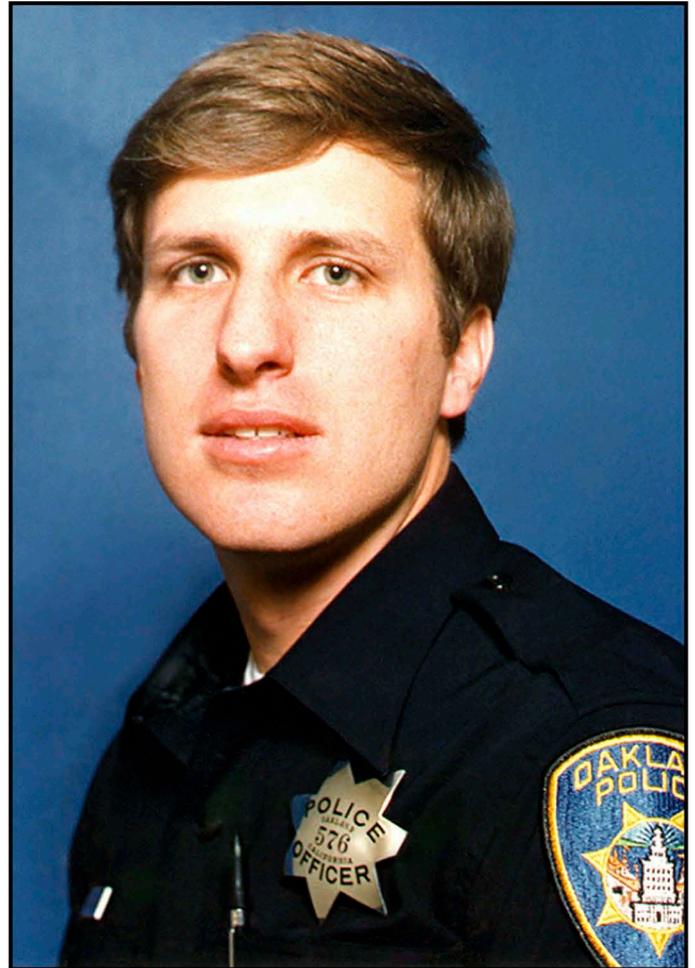




JOHN GRUBENSKY

October 20, 1991



It was an unusually warm, dry Sunday morning, and a strong, hot wind was blowing from the interior valley. Officer John Grubensky was working in Patrol on a day when he would normally have been at home.

A fire started in the North Oakland Hills near the Caldecott Tunnel. The warm weather and the intensity of the winds enabled the fire to race through the area. Officer Grubensky and other officers were ordered into the hills to assist the Fire Department. A decision was made to evacuate the fire area and the parts of Oakland lying in the anticipated path of the fire.

At about 11:15 A.M., Officer Grubensky was assigned to evacuate homes in the area of Charing Cross, Tunnel Road, and adjoining streets. Despite the growing fire and the increasing danger, Officer Grubensky persevered at his assignment and rescued, by many accounts, at least 100 people, leading them out of the path of the fire.

Returning to the fire zone once again, Officer Grubensky gathered five more people and began to drive down Charing Cross, a narrow street with heavy brush and trees on both sides of the roadway. Both sides of the street were on fire, and the flames danced over the treetops. The strong wind pushed the fire towards Officer Grubensky and his companions. There was no escape.

Officer Grubensky died during rescue operations on October 20, 1991. He is survived by his wife and three children.