WILLIAM A. WILKINS

January 12, 2001

Officer William "Willie" Wilkins was assigned to the Alameda County Drug Task Force on January 11, 2001, at about 11:14 P.M. Officer Wilkins was working in an under cover capacity assisting other officers with a narcotics surveillance operation. As the project concluded, Officer Wilkins spotted a stolen vehicle driving erratically in the area of 90th Avenue and "A" Street. Officer Wilkins notified officers on his team of the license plate of the vehicle. A team member advised Wilkins that the vehicle was stolen. The officer followed the vehicle and observed the male driver abandon the vehicle and flee into the yards.

A perimeter was set up and shortly thereafter, the auto theft suspect exited the yards and was stopped by Wilkins. At this time, two uniformed Oakland police officers who did not know Officer Wilkins responded to assist the officers and mistook Wilkins for an armed suspect. Officer Wilkins was shot by friendly fire.

Officer Wilkins was transported to Highland hospital where he underwent surgery. He died of his wounds at 2:20 A.M.

Officer Wilkins is survived, by his wife Kely, his eleven month old son, William R. Wilkins, by his mother, Josephina, his father, Fernando Sr., his brother, Fernando Jr., and his sister Stephanie. Officer Wilkins is the forty-sixth Oakland police officer to die in the line of duty.