

In Memoriam Rita Gross-Nelson Officer Yonkers, New York Police Department (Retired)



Dear IAWP member,

With sadness I announce the passing of Retired Yonkers (NY) Police Department Officer Rita Gross-Nelson. She passed away on January 28, 2015 while battling cancer. Rita was 77.

Rita was an honorably discharged veteran of the US Air Force.

Rita holds the honor of being the first Black female police officer hired by the Yonkers Police Department.

Yonkers Mayor Mike Spano said in a statement "Rita was no stranger to being first. As the first black female police officer in the Yonkers Police Department and the first officer promoted to the rank of detective, Rita not only paved the way for so many other minorities and female officers, she set the bar."

She was well respected and loved by her colleagues, the community she served, her family and friends.

Please keep all who loved Rita in your thoughts and prayers as they remember her legacy and celebrate her life.

Rest In Peace Officer Rita Gross- Nelson. Thank you for paving the way for women and women of color in policing. Your life is an inspiration.

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