



09/30/2007

Gun Range Accident: Indiana Officer Fatally Shoots Fellow Officer

By Tom Wyatt
Post-Tribune

GARY, Ind. — A Gary auxiliary police officer was killed Saturday afternoon when a fellow volunteer officer's gun accidentally discharged a bullet into the man's chest.

Kevin Weaver, 49, died at St. Margaret Mercy Hospital in Dyer. He and two other reserve officers were training at Deb's Gun Range in Hammond, Hammond Police Chief Brian Miller said.

About 3 p.m., Gary police said Reserve Officer Gerald Horton, 52, was attempting to clear his weapon when Weaver accidentally bumped into Horton, causing Horton's gun to fire a .45-caliber round.

'A real tragedy' for Gary

"He was a good officer, a veteran, and a good man," Terry Smith, head of Gary's auxiliary police program, said of Weaver, a Merrillville resident who leaves behind a wife and three children.

Gary Mayor Rudy Clay, who returned from Washington, D.C., on Saturday afternoon, learned of the shooting after exiting his airplane at Midway Airport.

"This is just a real tragedy here," Clay said.

"He was a good man and did some good deeds for a lot of people. His good deeds will live forever."

Weaver, a reservist since 1990, was a longtime custodian for the Gary School Corp. and owned a cleaning company.

"He was a hardworking man," Gary police Cmdr. Samuel Roberts said.

Sun-Times News Group

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