

## ***FIRST WOMAN ASSISTANT POLICE CHIEF THERESE ROCCO DEAD***

**December 11, 2023** - Therese Rocco, the first female Assistant Chief of the Pittsburgh Police, died this evening at 97.

Rocco began her career in 1949 as a clerk for the Pittsburgh Police Missing Persons Unit. Rocco was promoted to Captain, taking charge of the Missing Persons Unit. Decades later, albeit facing challenging discrimination, Mayor Sophie Masloff chose Therese Rocco as the first female assistant chief of the Pittsburgh Police.

Therese Rocco located thousands of missing persons and reunited them with family. Therese contributed to law enforcement publications during her career, including the F.B.I. Law Enforcement Bulletin – leading to her work being read into the Congressional record by Senator Hugh Scott. July 6, 1987, Newsweek Magazine, *A Celebration of Heros Edition* included Therese. Her intellectual and investigative prowess landed her a position on a joint task force to investigate unsolved murders.

In 1995, the United States Marshalls Pittsburgh Region tapped Therese as a candidate to lead the unit. However, discrimination again overshadowed her reputation as a no-nonsense leader with years of accommodation and excellence.

In August 2009, at the Northside police headquarters, the bureau unveiled and dedicated the Therese L. Rocco Conference Room.

Even in her retirement, Therese consulted and worked with cold case detectives. In 2018, Therese worked with detectives who found skeletal remains in the backyard of a Garfield home. Therese kept her notes and copies of cases in her home office – what she shared led the detective to break the case and identify Mary Acuri's skeleton. Coincidentally, Therese knew the Acuri family.

Therese released her memoir in 2017, with captivating personal stories and exciting cases. In 2019, a documentary entitled *The Rock* opened to a packed audience at the Heinz History Center.

As a devout Catholic, she lived her faith, devoting her spare time to many charities, including Angels Place and her parish, St. Teresa of Calcutta.

**All media inquiries shall be directed to her nephew, Father George Moneck, at 412-559-4493.**



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