

**Police Capt. Patrick Needham, 51**

Philip Wattlely  
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# Police Capt. Patrick Needham, 51

By Philip Wattlely

**CAPT. PATRICK V. NEEDHAM, 51,** a former deputy police superintendent once considered a rising star of the department, died Monday in Lutheran General Hospital, Park Ridge.

Capt. Needham, a 28-year police department veteran considered a first-rate administrator, was one of the "new breed" of educated officers cultivated by Supt. Orlando W. Wilson in the early 1960s to improve the department's tarnished image after the Summerdale District police scandal of 1959.

Educated at St. Bonaventure School, De Paul Academy and the University of Chicago, Capt. Needham joined the department's Youth Division as a patrolman in 1956 and was promoted to youth officer in 1960.

After a series of rapid promotions to sergeant, lieutenant and captain within the next two years, Capt. Needham became director of the

Records and Communications Division in 1964. In 1966 he was reassigned as director of the Planning Division and in 1967 was named executive assistant to the superintendent.

**DURING THE** mid-1960s, Capt. Needham became the first American to be admitted to Bramshill Police College in England, where he completed a senior command course.

In 1972, he became deputy superintendent of the Bureau of Administrative Services.

After serving in that job for seven years, Capt. Needham fell victim to the "Tuesday Afternoon Massacre" of May 29, 1979, when he and four other high-ranking officers were demoted by acting Police Supt. Samuel Nolan, reportedly on orders of newly inaugurated Mayor Jane Byrne.

Capt. Needham then was named commander of the auto theft section, and in August, 1979, was reassigned by another acting superin-

tendent, Joseph DiLeonardi, as watch commander of the Jefferson Park District. He later was assigned as watch commander of the Austin District, where he remained until he went on medical leave this year.

During the Korean War, Capt. Needham served in the U.S. Army airborne command.

**A RESIDENT OF the** Sauganash area, Capt. Needham was an avid sailor and maintained his own 28-foot sloop, the "Rambler," in which he and his family often cruised Lake Michigan in summers.

He is survived by his wife, Marion; three sons, Kevin, Thomas and John; four daughters, Mary Pat, Jeannette, Kathleen and Megan; four brothers, Michael, John, Phelim and Jerome; and two sisters, Kathleen Sandstrom and Ellen Corcoran.

Mass will be said at 11 a.m. Thursday in Queen of All Saints Basilica, 6280 N. Sauganash Ave.