

Rothman Joins Hundreds To Celebrate The Life Of Fallen Police Officer Mary Ann Collura

April 17, 2004

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Fallen Police Officer Mary Ann Collura
First Fair Lawn Officer Killed in the Line of Duty
Honored on One Year Anniversary of Her Death

Fair Lawn, NJ - Marking the one year anniversary of fallen Police Officer Mary Ann Collura's death, Congressman Steve Rothman (D-Fair Lawn) today joined hundreds of residents at Memorial Middle School as they celebrated the life of a community hero who was the first Fair Lawn police officer to be killed in the line of duty.

"Throughout her 43 years as a resident of Fair Lawn, Mary Ann Collura was a model citizen, neighbor, police officer, and friend," Rothman said. "While remembering the passing of a person as beloved and revered as Mary Ann is always difficult, we must take comfort in the fact that she has left for us a legacy worthy of praise and celebration. One year later we still mourn her loss. But I know in my heart that she watches over us still from her place in heaven. And though Fair Lawn has lost one of its protectors, Fair Lawn and all of humanity have gained another angel."

After dutifully serving 18 years as an outstanding officer and as a role model in her community, Officer Collura was fatally shot on April 17, 2003 in the line of duty. Officer Collura was backing up Clifton, New Jersey Police Officer Steven Farrell who was trying to arrest three men following a car chase that ended outside a church in Fair Lawn.

In an effort to pay tribute to Officer Collura, Rothman introduced legislation in the U.S. House of Representatives that would formally rename the main post office in Fair Lawn after her. U.S. Senators Jon Corzine (D-NJ) and Frank Lautenberg (D-NJ) introduced legislation in the Senate that is identical to Rothman's. The House is expected to vote on the Collura post office bill in the coming weeks. The bill is at the committee level in the Senate.

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