

PAUL B. CALHOUN
12th President SPIAA 1962-63
June 23, 1914 – January 19, 2002



Chief Paul B. Calhoun

Former Greensboro Police Chief, Mr. Paul B. Calhoun, 87, died Jan. 19, 2002, at Moses Cone Hospital. A memorial service for Mr. Calhoun will be held at 1 p.m. Tuesday, Jan. 22, 2002, at First Lutheran Church.

Mr. Calhoun was born in Guilford County to Mr. and Mrs. Henry and Arena Henderson Calhoun. He was a member of First Lutheran Church and retired from the Greensboro Police Department in 1974 after 34 years of service, 18 1/2 years of which he served as Police Chief. Both he and his wife, Virginia were active members of the community and were instrumental in bringing Hospice to Greensboro. Mr. Calhoun was a member in many associations relating to his police service including Southern Police Institute in Louisville, Ky., Institute of Government at Chapel Hill, Retired Peace Officers Association; and served as former president of the International Association of Police Chiefs North Carolina Chapter. He was a graduate of the FBI Academy and an alumnus of the University of Louisville, Ky. He served as treasurer for many years for the volunteer Fire Station in Summerfield. Working closely with the administration of Guilford College, he developed and implemented a Criminal Justice degree program.

Mr. Calhoun was preceded in death by his wives, Mrs. Margaret Styers Calhoun and Mrs. Virginia Umbaugh Calhoun.

He is survived by his sisters, Mrs. Lois Phibbs of Brown Summit, Mrs. Ora Stanley and Mrs. Dorothy Oldham and husband, Jasper, both of Greensboro; step-children, Rev. Dr. Bill Mims and wife, Sherry of Newton, Randy Doyle Mims and Connye M. Post of Greensboro; six step-grandchildren, John T. Mims, Amanda W. Post, Rev. Stephen F. Mims, Lucas S. Post, Seth G. Post and Brendan W. Mims; and three step-great-grandchildren, Jacob T. Mims, Sadie N. Post and Rachel A. Mims.



Visitation for Mr. Calhoun will be held from 6:30 to 9 p.m. Monday, Jan. 21, 2002, at Hanes-Lineberry N. Elm Chapel.

In lieu of flowers memorial contributions may be made to First Lutheran Church, 3600 W. Friendly Ave., Greensboro, N.C. 27410 or Hospice at Greensboro, 2500 Summit Ave., Greensboro, N.C. 27405.

[Online Notice](#)

PAUL B. CALHOUN
Chief, Greensboro Police Department
AOC Graduate, Longtime SPIAA Supporter



POLICE\ PAUL CALHOUN, WHO DIED SATURDAY, SPENT MORE THAN 30 YEARS IN THE DEPARTMENT - MANY OF THEM AS ITS CHIEF.

- BY PAUL GARBER Staff Writer
- Jan 19, 2002 Updated Jan 25, 2015

Former Greensboro police Chief Paul B. Calhoun, who led the department through some of its most turbulent times from the late 1950s through the mid-1970s, died Saturday, January 19, 2002.

Calhoun, 87, the longest-serving chief in the department's history, had suffered a heart attack earlier in the week, said his stepdaughter, Connye Post. Calhoun was a hard-working perfectionist who always wanted what was best for his officers, said Allen Lewis, a longtime friend who retired as a sergeant from the department in 1982. ``He always thought of his men above himself,' Lewis said.

Calhoun was known for working hard to get as much money from the city as possible to make sure his officers had the best equipment available, said former mayor Jim Melvin. ``He worked hard to see that they had the best that money could buy,' Melvin said.

Calhoun started in the department in 1940 and was named chief in 1956. He retired in 1974, and during his tenure he was forced to deal with many divisive issues.

Scandal struck the department in 1960 when three officers - two lieutenants and a sergeant - were charged in a string of burglaries and break-ins. The charges led to a re-organization of the patrol division and increased supervision of the officers. That same year, Calhoun had a different challenge to deal with - four black freshmen from N.C. A&T took seats at the Woolworth lunch counter and refused to leave after being denied service. The store manager went to the police station and demanded that Calhoun make arrests. Calhoun refused unless the manager signed a warrant, which he wasn't willing to do, opting instead to close the store early. Calhoun did send officers to the store, but they didn't bother the students.

The sit-in made national headlines and was a turning point in the civil rights movement.

In 1969, officers came under sniper fire in three separate incidents following unrest at A&T and Dudley High School. Four officers were wounded, and one student was killed and two people were wounded in the resulting cross-fire. In testimony before a Senate Investigating Committee, Calhoun blamed the uprisings on a plot by the Black Panther Party.

Calhoun formed a community relations office with a director that reported directly to him following the shootings. Also, during Calhoun's tenure, Anne Garcia became the first female patrol officer in 1972. Calhoun retired in December 1974.

In addition to being a dedicated police officer, Calhoun was a wonderful family man with a warm way with people, Post said.

``He always made you feel like you were the most special person in the world,' she said.

Calhoun remained active in the community after retirement, working along with his wife, Virginia, and others to bring Hospice to Greensboro, Post said. Hospice is a non-profit group that provides care for people with life-threatening, debilitating or terminal illness.

``He really made a difference in this town,' she said.

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CHIEF CALHOUN LEAVES OUTSTANDING LEGACY

- Jan 28, 2002 Updated Jan 23, 2015

The city of Greensboro lost one of its most dedicated public servants on Jan. 19. Retired Chief of Police Paul B. Calhoun devoted the majority of his adult life to the Greensboro Police Department. He was the consummate professional who served as the head of that organization during some of the most trying times in the history of the city.

His low-key type leadership guided the Police Department to the apex of the law enforcement community. When Chief Calhoun retired in 1974, GPD was recognized as one of the most professional municipal law enforcement agencies in the country. His innovative style provided the citizens of Greensboro with excellent law enforcement services. He was also an outstanding mentor to the several department members who served under his command and successfully succeeded him. Chief Calhoun's legacy epitomizes dedication and devotion to the citizens of Greensboro, the police officers and employees who served under his watch and the entire criminal justice system. \ Phillip J. Colvard \ Greensboro

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