

Cst. Maurice J.L.G.



MAURICE, JOSEPH LEO GHISLAIN - CST. Regimental No. 40876

June 10, 2003 - Sherwood Park, Alberta Age: 35

Joseph Leo Ghislain Maurice was born on January 30th, 1968, in Hull, Quebec. He attended High School at Ecole Secondaire Poly Valente de L'Île, graduating in 1985. Post Secondary education included a Diploma in Law Enforcement from C.E.G.E.P. de L'Outaouais. Ghislain was in the process of obtaining his degree in Business Management from Athabasca University.

Ghislain was sworn in to the RCMP on March 6th, 1989 and began his training at Depot on March 29th, 1989. Cst Maurice graduated from the RCMP Training Academy on September 25th, 1989, and was posted to "K" Division, Evansburg Detachment.

Ghislain adapted well to the RCMP, and was quickly accepted by his peers and the community. He embraced police work immediately and donated a considerable amount of voluntary time to learn to do the job. Ghislain's first official language was French and through hard work and determination Ghislain became proficient in English. His colleagues in Evansburg quickly transformed "Ghislain" into "Gus", which is how most of the RCMP family came to know him. Gus promoted community based policing and was involved heavily in the schools and minor hockey, and, as well, was an active member of the Legion. It was while he was posted to Evansburg that Gus developed the skills and work ethic as an investigator that would hold him in high regard throughout his career.

While posted in Evansburg, Gus came to meet Kathy Cameron. The couple were married on October 10th, 1992, exchanging vows at the Entwistle Community Church.. Gus had requested that his next posting be to an LDP, and on May 31st, 1994, the Maurice's transferred to Cardston, Alberta.

In Cardston, Gus became a superior member who carried a high workload and was a leader in self generated work. He was a mentor to not only the junior members but to many members of the Blood Tribe Police who were in the process of becoming a stand alone police force. Gus would take the time to assist these members with their investigations and was well respected by all he met. He continued to champion his belief in Community Based Policing and was involved in the Citizens on Patrol Program. As well, he developed a program to instill in the public a need to wear seatbelts in a rural community. He was a tenacious investigator who got successful results in most every file he touched.

Gus volunteered to serve with the UNCIVPOL, and in November 1996, Gus commenced a 6 month tour in Haiti. He was assigned to the Motor Transport Section in Port O Prince. As a result of his successful tour, he was awarded both the UN Mission in Haiti Medal and the Canadian Peacekeeping Services Medal. Gus served in Haiti as he would with any post, with the upmost dedication and commitment to duty. His supervisors described him as a solid investigator who was an asset to the force.

On May 15th, 2000, Gus and Kathy celebrated the arrival of their first born, Emilie Susan Maurice. Gus was a dedicated family man who spent every free moment he had with Emilie. He loved being a father more than anything and was so proud of his little girl. On June 16th, 2000 the young family transferred to Sherwood Park Detachment.

Gus was assigned to Watch 2 upon his arrival in Sherwood Park He quickly assimilated into the detachment and again, through his work ethic, became a leader on the watch. Gus lead by example, he was constantly a leader in self generated work and encouraged others to follow suit. He quietly continued to work on courses towards his degree in Business Management in hopes of one day landing a job in Commercial Crime or Proceeds of Crime. Through his efforts in self generated work and his dedication to physical fitness, Gus was selected to work on the Detachment's Bike Patrol Unit. Shortly after, Gus was transferred to the Highway Patrol Unit.

On the morning of June 10th, 2003, Cst Maurice arrived early for duty at 6:00 a.m., beaming with pride over news he was finally able to share with his colleagues, that Kathy was pregnant with their second child. After completing the morning rituals, he set out to conduct speed enforcement on Highway 21, south of Sherwood Park. At approximately 08:40 a.m., while executing a turn on the highway, Cst Maurice was broadsided by an oncoming gravel truck, succumbing to his injuries on site.

A full regimental funeral was held on Monday. June 16th, 2004 at Our Lady Of Perpetual Help Catholic Church in Sherwood Park, Alberta in honour of Cst. Joseph Leo Ghislain Maurice. The sea of red marching along Brower Drive was a fitting tribute to our friend and colleague. A memorial service was held in Hull, Quebec on Saturday June 29th, 2004 at St. Joseph's Church. Each service was attended by hundreds of family members, friends and colleagues.

On Tuesday, January 13, 2004, through incredible courage and determination, Kathy gave birth to Noah Ghislain Maurice at the Grey Nuns Hospital, in Edmonton. Noah is a striking image of his father and we know Gus would be so proud. He was first and foremost a family man and his children will be his legacy.

The loss of Ghislain has been immense for those who survive him, his loving wife Kathy; children, Emilie and Noah; parents, Marie-Paul and Jean Pierre, brother Luc and sister-in-law Asako, sisters Lynn and Josee and brothers-in-law Richard and Robert; parents-in-law, Rick and Sue Cameron, sister and brother-in-law Teresa and Mike; sister-in-law, Laura; and many nieces and nephews. Ghislain's love for life and enthusiasm was contagious, and all those he touched - his colleagues, peers, and friends, equally mourn his loss.