



# Division of Capitol Police News Release

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
March 9, 2021

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## Capitol Police Master Officer Dowdy dies at age 60

**RICHMOND** – Master Officer Woodrow W. "Buddy" Dowdy III, a 33-year veteran of the Virginia Division of Capitol Police and one of the agency's most visible employees, died Tuesday. He was 60.

Dowdy, who had experienced a period of declining health, died while undergoing treatment at a local hospital for COVID-19.

Dowdy was a longtime member of the Capitol Police honor guard and was a mainstay at what is known as Capitol Square's Post 1, the entrance regarded as the 13-acre park's main entry way for vehicles and many pedestrians, at Ninth and East Grace streets.

"Buddy was a natural to be stationed at the guard house at Post 1 and greet the governor, legislators, visitors and others arriving at Capitol Square," said Col. Anthony S. Pike, the Capitol Police chief. "His easy-going personality allowed him to be professional while also making visitors feel relaxed and welcome."

Dowdy, who was 27 when he joined Capitol Police in July 1987, received numerous commendations over his career, both from the division and members of the General Assembly. He became a master officer in 2017 and also served as a field training officer, mentoring younger officers who had just joined the division after graduation from the training academy.

Dowdy took particular pride in serving as a member of the honor guard, a job that kept him and other members of the unit especially busy in 2018, when Capitol Police celebrated the agency's 400th anniversary by sending the outfit to a variety of special celebratory appearances.

"Buddy chose as his career service to others, and for that, we all benefited," Pike said. "We will miss him tremendously, and we ask that everyone keep his wife, Cheryl, as well as his son, Wilson, and other family and friends in your prayers."

Funeral arrangements were incomplete.



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