

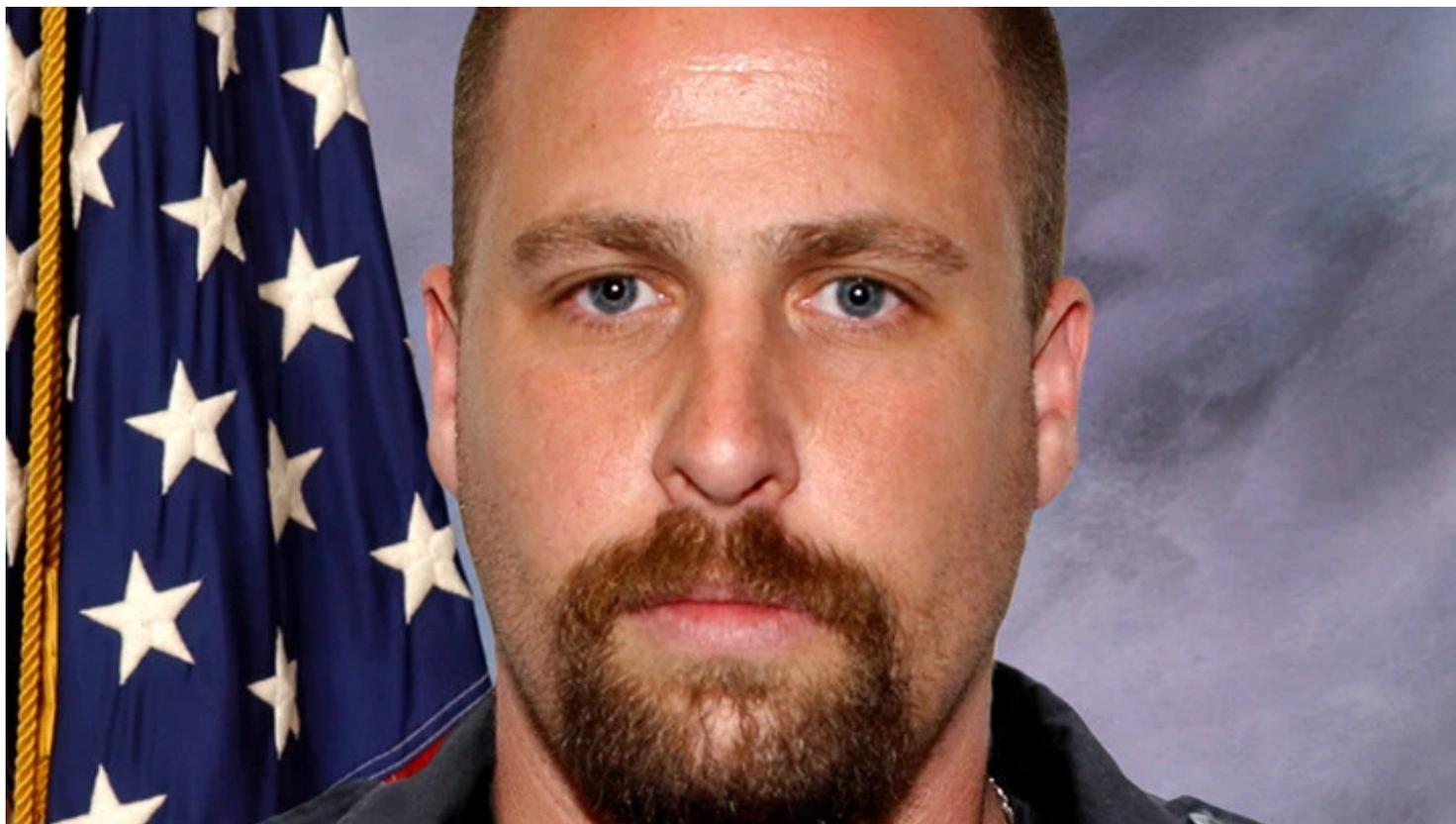


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MTA Officer Who Shot Nassau Cop Is "Devastated"

A Nassau County police officer died in the friendly fire shooting

By Ann Mercogliano & Alice McQuillan • Published at 9:59 pm on March 12, 2011



The MTA police officer who shot and killed a plainclothes Nassau County officer in a case of mistaken friendly fire is "devastated" and inconsolable, according to a published report.

The Daily News said the 33-year-old officer, Glenn Gentile, has been on the force at least six years. He comes from a police family, with a twin brother who is also an MTA officer and a father who was a Nassau detective.

Officials believe Gentile shot dead plainclothes officer Geoffrey J. Breitkopf, 40, as he approached the Massapequa Park house where police were responding to an incident.

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The tragedy unfolded after police answered a 911 call at around 8:20 p.m. for a suspicious person walking around with weapons.

Arriving officers confronted Digeronimo on the street but he ran into his parents' home and barricaded himself inside a bedroom, police said. Officers rushed inside, evacuated the home and called for assistance, police said.

Suddenly, Digeronimo emerged from the room and lunged at officers with a knife, police said. Officers fired at him, and he died at the scene.

Seconds later, authorities believe Gentile arrived and opened fire on Breitkopf, a 12-year veteran, member of an elite special operations team and volunteer firefighter.

Breitkopf was in plain clothes and carrying a rifle, the Daily News said.

Gentile "is devastated," an unnamed police source told the newspaper. "He comes from a police family. He is heartbroken."



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