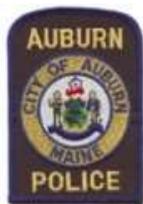


## 04-06-1981 Auburn ME – Rodney Bonney – LEO Surface Rescue Attempt



**Police Officer Rodney C. "Rocky" Bonney**  
**Auburn Police Department, ME**  
**EOW: Monday, April 6, 1981**  
**Cause of Death: Drowned**

IN MEMORIAM



"When a police officer is killed, it's not an agency that loses an officer...it's an entire nation." -C. Cosgriff



**Officer Rodney (Rocky) Bonney** died in the line of duty on April 6, 1981.

Officer Bonney drowned while trying to save a teenage boy who had fallen into the icy Androscoggin river while riding his bicycle along the railroad trestle/foot bridge (behind Florian's Market on Main Street in Auburn). Officer Bonney was the first officer to arrive at the scene and immediately stripped out of his jacket and service belt. He dove into the river and was able to make it to the boy.

The boy began to struggle with Officer Bonney out of fear. A second officer - Officer John Perrino - arrived at the scene and also entered the water. Realizing that he could not continue, Officer Bonney pushed the boy towards Perrino. Perrino grabbed the boy as Officer Bonney fell below the surface. The boy continued to struggle and also fell below the surface after causing Perrino to lose his grip. Officer Perrino managed to get ashore and was pulled from the water.



Officer Bonney's body was not located until the following afternoon. When Florian's Market was relocated, a city park was built on its site. The park was later named "Bonney Park" in Rocky's memory.

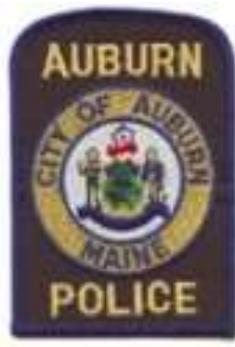
Officer Bonney had served with the Auburn Police Department for 2 years. He was survived by his wife, son, and daughter.



# OFFICER DOWN MEMORIAL PAGE

REMEMBERING ALL OF LAW ENFORCEMENT'S HEROES

<http://www.odmp.org/officer/2031-police-officer-rodney-c-rocky-bonney>



## Bio & Incident Details

**Age:** 32

**Tour:** 2 years

**Badge #** 35

**Cause:** Drowned

**Police Officer**

## Rodney C. "Rocky" Bonney

**Auburn Police Department, Maine**

**End of Watch: Monday, April 6, 1981**

Officer Rocky Bonney drowned while trying to save a teenage boy who had fallen into an icy river while walking along a railroad trestle. Officer Bonney was the first officer to arrive at the scene and immediately stripped out of his jacket and service belt. He dove into the river and was able to make it to the boy.

The boy began to struggle with Officer Bonney out of fear. A second officer arrived at the scene and also entered the water. Realizing that he could not continue, Officer Bonney pushed the boy towards the other officer. The other officer grabbed the boy as Officer Bonney fell below the surface. The boy continued to struggle and also fell below the surface after causing the other officer to lose his grip.

Officer Bonney's body was not located until the following afternoon. A park near the site was later named in his memory.

Officer Bonney had served with the agency for 2 years. He was survived by his wife, son, and daughter.

## **APD welcomes new K9 officer**

<http://twincitytimes.com/news/apd-welcomes-new-k9-officer>

July 18, 2013 | Author *TCT Staff*

Auburn Police Department's newest officer was sworn in during a recent City Council meeting.

K9 "Rocky" and his handler, Patrol Officer Tyler Ham, took the Law Enforcement Oath of Honor, which was issued by Auburn Mayor Jonathan LaBonté.

"Rocky," a two-year-old German Shepherd, is named in honor of Auburn Police Officer Rodney "Rocky" Bonney, who was killed in the line of duty on April 6, 1981. Officer Bonney's widow, Cherrie, got to meet her husband's namesake for the first time at the event, proudly 'pinning' his badge during the ceremony.



**Cherie Bonney widow of fallen Officer Rodney "Rocky" Bonney meets K9 "Rocky" for the first time**

"Rocky" also received a new ballistic vest, complete with APD patches and his name, to protect him as he works the road with his handler. The vest came courtesy of Wayne Robichaud and his family of Oxford. The Robichauds raise funds to purchase and donate vests to K9 officers across the state through their website and donation cans placed in stores across Maine. This labor of love, which began as a school project by their oldest daughter in 2009, has since become a family affair.

"Rocky" and Officer Ham recently graduated from the Maine Criminal Justice Academy K9 School, an intensive 14-week K9 training program. They join K9 "Dutch" and his handler, Corporal Kris Bouchard, who have been working together on the force since 2010. "Rocky" replaces "Inka," who retired in February after six years of service with her handler, Corporal Scott Corey.

"These dogs work incredibly hard," said Police Chief Phil Crowell. "They expand our law enforcement capabilities and they have a lot of heart. We are proud to have Rocky join our team. He is dedicated and very intelligent. With his namesake, he has some very big shoes to fill."

**To contribute funds to provide ballistic vests to K9 officers across Maine, see the Robichaud's website at [www.maineK9vests.com](http://www.maineK9vests.com).**