

James Arthur Springmann

(17 Dec 1876 – 26 Dec 1931)

The Evening Star, January 16, 1931, p. A6

Best Wishes Expressed

Entering into his thirty-second year as a member of the Metropolitan Police Department, Detective Sergt. James A. Springmann today was receiving the congratulations and good wishes of his many friends on the force.

Sergt. Springmann's original assignment was a clerkship in the telephone and record room at police headquarters, where he now is attached as a member of Inspector William S. Shelby's detective force.

The Evening Star, February 18, 1931, p. B11

Detective Springman Is Denied Retirement Examiners Turn Down Officer's Request for Relief From Duty, Holding Him Too Healthy

Headquarters Detective James A. Springman was refused retirement by the Commissioners yesterday on the ground that he was too healthy. Springman is 54 years old and has served the department for 30 years. He is one of the senior headquarters detectives in point of service and an extremely active member of the force.

Springman complained that he was "getting old" and "can't get around like these young chaps can." He also listed a long line of ailments such as nervousness, failing memory and the like. The board of surgeons however, found that he had years of good service left in him and recommended unfavorably on his application for retirement.

The retirement board also found Springman too healthy to be laid aside yet and the Commissioners today confirmed both findings.

Springmann, James A. Departed this life on Saturday, December 26, 1931, at 2:08 a.m., at his residence, 497 Maryland ave. s.w., James A., beloved husband of Lena A. Springmann. He also leaves one son and six daughters. Funeral from his late residence, 2 p.m., Monday, December 28. Interment Congressional Cemetery.

The Evening Star, December 26, 1931, p. A2

Sergt. Springmann of D.C. Police Dead Sudden Illness Is Fatal to Head of Capital's Homicide Squad

Headquarters Detective Sergt. James A. Springmann, head of the police homicide squad and a veteran of many years service with the Police Department, died at his home, 497 Maryland avenue southwest, early today after a sudden illness. He was 55 years old.

Sergt. Springmann's death was believed due to acute indigestion. He had been ailing for several days, and when his condition grew rapidly worse, the Emergency Hospital ambulance was summoned and the physician pronounced him dead upon arrival.

Flags on all police buildings here were ordered placed at half staff until after the funeral. Arrangements for the latter are to be announced later.

Springmann joined the police force January 16, 1900. He resigned in 1901 to become a civilian station keeper and desk sergeant. He rejoined the force in 1902.

During 31 years' service with the police, Springmann received numerous commendations for efficient service.

In 1925 he asked the Board of Medical Examiners to retire him. The request was refused after a physical examination. Again last year he asked to be retired because of ill health, but the board of examiners again refused the request.

He first went to police headquarters as detective sergeant in 1908. Some five months ago he was promoted to head the homicide squad, succeeding Capt. Edward J. Kelly, who was given the full rank of captain and placed in command of No. 3 police station. Springmann also had served at Nos. 3, 5 and 10 precincts.

Sergt. Springmann was widely known among the veteran members of the force and was much liked for his cheerful disposition, both in dealing with members of the force, the press and other citizens.

He is survived by his widow, Mrs. Lena Springmann, and six children.

The Evening Star, December 29, 1931, p. 9

Glassford Attends Springmann Funeral

Other Officers of Police Department at Rites for Head of Homicide Squad

Funeral services for Detective Sergt. James A. Springmann, head of the homicide squad, who died at his home, 497 Maryland avenue southwest, Saturday morning, were held at the residence yesterday afternoon.

The services were attended by Gen. Pelham D. Glassford, superintendent of police, who led the cortege from the home to Congressional Cemetery, and by many high-ranking officers of the Police Department, along with numerous other veteran members of the force. Sergt. Springmann's associates at headquarters, including members of the homicide squad and other detective sergeants, were pallbearers. A motorcycle escort accompanied the funeral procession.

Rev. Dr. William S. Abernethy, pastor of Cavalry Baptist Church, officiated. Besides Gen. Glassford, officers of the department who attended the funeral included Inspectors F.S.W. Burke, J.F. Beckett and L.I.H. Edwards, and Capts. J.A. Sullivan, E.J. Kelly and M.I. Ready.

Sergt. Springmann, who was 55 years old, was a veteran of many years with the department. He went to Police Headquarters as detective sergeant in 1908 and about five months ago was promoted to head of the homicide squad.