

## Press Release

The Mathews Family and Sharon Police Department wish to recognize the passing of our patriarch and colleague James E. Mathews. Jimmy served the Sharon community as a Police Officer for 34 years from 1950 until his retirement in 1984. His hiring marked the beginning of overnight patrols in town as he worked from 12 midnight until 8 AM for the first several years of his career. He was equally adept at disarming a knife wielding robber as he did at Thayer Pharmacy in 1975 or in helping children cross the street in the Square on their way to the Wilber School. His commitment to his profession was best illustrated by earning an Associate Degree in Law Enforcement from Stonehill College in 1977, having begun his college studies at the age of 55, and in the skill he demonstrated as an FBI Certified Firearms Instructor for the department. Jimmy treasured the many friendships that he made during the course of his tenure. He greatly enjoyed working details for Temple Sinai Bingo and functions at the Bell House.

Prior to his career with the Police Department, Jimmy served as a Staff Sergeant for the 733<sup>rd</sup> Field Artillery Battalion, XX Corps, Third U.S. Army in European theater operations during 1944-45. During that time, he supervised a unit of 20-25 men whose responsibility was to perform reconnaissance for the purpose of setting up observation posts for the battalion and to run cable which would establish radio communications between the OP and the firing battery. Jimmy served with distinction in five major campaigns, Normandy, Northern France, Battle of the Bulge, Rhinelands and Central Europe. He was awarded the Bronze Star for meritorious service during the liberation of St. Lo on the Normandy peninsula and was inducted as a Chevalier (Knight) in the French Legion of Honor.

During retirement, Jimmy spent time with family and friends around Sharon and elsewhere. He restored antique marine engines and farm equipment as a hobby, and traveled annually with his collection of marine engines to exhibitions at the Calvert Marine Museum in Solomons Island, MD and Mystic Seaport in Connecticut. His greatest wish would have been to be remembered as the beloved friend and neighbor that he was.