



Milt Spencer

# Hills' original 'DC' now leads White Lake

By WILLIAM COULTANT  
STAFF WRITER

Milt Spencer, who was the first, last and only deputy chief in Farmington Hills, was honored for his 33 years of service Feb. 28.

Farmington Hills city officials, including Mayor Aldo Vognozzi, City Manager Dan Hobbs and Police Chief Bill Dwyer honored the veteran officer who was elected White Lake Township

supervisor in November.

Spencer, 57, took office on Nov. 20 but used up his vacation days with the department so that his retirement would coincide with his wife Jo's retirement.

"I have no second thoughts," he said about leaving. "Technically, I'm the director of public safety because the police chief and fire chief work for me."

Spencer served in the U.S. Army as a military policeman after joining at 17 and served as

part of the security detachment for President Dwight Eisenhower when he was in Walter Reed Hospital.

Spencer served with the Washington, D.C. police for four years and the Novi Police in 1964 before joining the Farmington Township department in 1964.

He was promoted to sergeant in 1966 and lieutenant in 1975 and was appointed at the department's first, and as it turned out only, deputy chief in 1985. The city council approved a police reorganization plan that will eliminate the deputy chief job, making Spencer an original.

But to hear Chief Dwyer and others tell it, the former "DC" had already been an original.

"We're all going to miss him," said Dwyer, who named Spencer as his deputy chief in his first

reorganization of the department. "But I know that he wanted the challenge of being a township supervisor and he'll probably be the best one they could ask for."

A video tape with archival photos of Spencer throughout his career and praise and thanks from co-workers were among the tributes given to Spencer.

City Manager Dan Hobbs presented him with a watch.

"I have very fond memories of this city," Spencer said. "I don't really miss being the DC. Mostly, I miss the people I've worked with."

Spencer said he has a good staff at his new job and that the township government, like the police, work well as a team.

"The difference is that as deputy chief I never had to know

about well head protection, lake improvement, setbacks and other issues," he said.

Spencer said his experiences from Farmington Township days will be valuable in an area that still has a lot of dirt roads and country side, much like Farmington Hills 30 years ago.

"In 1984, Farmington Township had roads you couldn't get a police car down," he said.

Spencer's departure allowed for the reorganization of the department. At 2 p.m. Friday, three inspectors will be promoted to the new rank of assistant chief and two will be promoted to the new rank of commander as part of the new structure that will eliminate a layer of management and save the department more than \$38,000 a year in salary.

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## OBITUARIES

### LUCIANO COLUCCIO

Luciano Coluccio, 87, died March 1, at St. Mary's Hospital in Livonia.

Born in Buffalo, NY, Mr. Coluccio was a bus driver for the Detroit Office of Transportation and a member of St. Alexander Catholic Church in Farmington Hills.

He is survived by his wife, Ida; son, Vince; daughter, Lee McDonagh and grandchildren, David, Cara, Aimee, Anna and Nick.

Funeral services were held on March 5 at St. Alexander Church in Farmington Hills.

Memorials can be sent to Angela Hospice and Capuchins.

### ALBERT J. STEWART

Albert J. Stewart, 71, died Feb. 28 at Huron Valley Hospital in Commerce Township.

A longtime resident of Farmington Hills, Mr. Stewart was an engineer for Ford Motor Company, a World War II Army Veteran, a National Ski Patrol member and a member of the Finnish Center Association.

He is survived by his wife, Emily; daughters, Carol Miller, Linda Golembiewski, and Sharon Stewart; sister, Alberta

Klein of Harrisville, Mich. and six grandchildren.

Funeral services were on March 4 at St. William Catholic Church in Walled Lake.

### ROBERT CHARLES BOHME

Robert Bohme, 76, died March 1, at Henry Ford Hospital in Detroit.

Born in Windsor, Ontario, Mr. Bohme was the owner of Clark Steel in Detroit from 1967 until 1985 when he retired. He was a World War II Army Air Corps Veteran and played minor league baseball for the New York Giants farm team.

He is survived by two sons, Craig of Tucson, Ariz. and Robert of Novi; daughter, Laurie and six grandchildren.

Funeral services were on March 5 at Thayer-Rock Funeral Home in Farmington Hills.

Memorials can be sent to the American Heart Association of Michigan, 16310 W. 12 Mile Rd., PO Box 760160, Lathrup Village, 48078.

### RUSSELL ALAN POOVEY

Russell Poovey, 28, died March 1, in Jackson, Mich.

Born in Weisbaden, Germany, Mr. Poovey was a mainte-

nance worker for an apartment complex. He attended Aquinas College in Grand Rapids, was a member of St. Paul Lutheran Church in Caledonia, Mich. and enjoyed fishing.

He is survived by his parents, George of Idaho and Kay Corey of Canton; five aunts and five uncles; one great aunt and uncle and many cousins.

Funeral services will be today, March 6, at Ward Presbyterian Church in Livonia.

Memorials can be sent to Detroit Rescue Mission, 3535 3rd St., Detroit, 48201.

### JEANETTE MARIE WOOTTEN

Jennette Wootten, 86, died Feb. 24 at West Winds Nursing Home in Commerce.

Born in Jackson, Mich., Mrs. Wootten was in retail sales and managed the family wholesale drug business. She was also an avid golfer.

She is survived by son Garth of Farmington Hills; daughters Gwen McCormick of Waukesha, Wis. and Sandra Landback of Farmington Hills; nine grandchildren and 12 great grandchildren.

A private family memorial service is scheduled.



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