

## Footsteps from page A1

said the academy's associate dean, Robert F. Pearce, referring to the intense training in criminal law, accident investigation, patrol operations and other police administration topics. "Our graduates are highly recruited."

Toby was a senior at West Bloomfield High School in November 1993 when his dad went into the hospital for hip replacement surgery. Toby was an honor student and an all-county linebacker on the football team who was looking forward to graduation and college.

Much of that changed, however, when Jerry Tobin died in the hospital within hours of receiving tainted blood in a transfusion.

### Mother's advice

Despite the tragedy, Toby followed the advice of his mother, Jan, and went to Michigan State University, where he studied criminal justice. Toby said he enjoyed the experience and appreciated the opportunity. But in his sophomore year, "I decided it was time to get a job."

Toby became a police cadet in Farmington Hills. "I guess I always wanted to be a police officer," Toby said. "I didn't talk about it much. But deep down, I always knew what I wanted."

Being a cadet is not the same as being a police officer.

"Life for a cadet isn't easy," said Hills Chief William Dwyer. Applicants undergo psychological testing, oral interviews and a background before they are hired. "Once they're on board, cadets have a lot

of responsibility. We put them through the mill," said Dwyer, an associate of Toby's dad.

Training at the academy was intense, Toby said, but some of the lessons were more meaningful because of his experience as a youngster. "Dad always tried to give me the benefit of his life's experiences," he said.

On one occasion during academy training, Jerry Tobin gave his advice - literally - to his son and other members of the class. That happened when one of academy training tapes featured Toby's dad - Rollin G. Tobin - as the instructor.

"Dad was very high on education and professional ethics," Toby said. "And I knew he had made many instructional videos, so there was a chance I'd see one."

### Unsettling experience

Even so, Toby said seeing the instructional video featuring his dad talking about ethnic diversity within police departments was unsettling.

Toby said he doesn't know if anybody knows - or cares - that he is the son of a well-known and highly regarded career lawman. Jerry Tobin's career started with the Detroit Police Department, extended to the Organized Crime Unit of the Michigan Attorney General and included stints as chief of police in Birmingham and West Bloomfield.

He has his own ideas of what it means to be a cop. "I intend to be the kind of officer any chief - including my dad - would want to have in the department."



**Big day:** Friday was a big day for Toby Tobin, who graduated from the police academy en route to becoming a Farmington Hills officer. It's also the fifth anniversary of the tragic death of his father, former Southfield Public Safety Director Rollin G. Tobin.

**Practice:** Toby Tobin practices on the firing range, not many days before his graduation last Friday from the police academy.

## New Hills officer follows long line in law enforcement family

BY PAT MURPHY  
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By the time Toby Tobin was born, his father was already into police administration - as chief of police in Birmingham or West Bloomfield.

"He liked administration," said Toby, "because he could try to run a department the way he thought they should be run... professionally. But I really think

he missed being on the street."

Even so, Toby got firsthand information about life as a street cop. His sister - Sue Myszenski - has been a deputy sheriff with the Oakland Department for more than 20 years.

"When I saw a patrol car in the driveway, it was hers," Toby said last week as he was preparing to graduate from the Wayne County Police Academy.

Like her brother - who she

likes to call by his formal name, "T. Derek" - Deputy Myszenski said she always wanted to go into police work. "I don't think my dad wanted me to go into police work," she said. "But once I did, I think he was proud."

All the Tobin youngsters have ties to West Bloomfield High School as well as law enforcement. Susan was in the class of '73; her sister, Kass Moore of Troy, graduated in 1975, and

### "But I try not to think about the danger."

Jan Tobin  
-Toby's mom

Toby was part of the class of '94. Their kid sister, Elizabeth, is in the class of 2000.

They also have extensive ties to law enforcement. After using F. Ray, Toby will be a police officer in Farmington Hills

and Susan is a deputy sheriff assigned to school liaison with Rochester Community Schools. Her husband, Paul Myszenski, is a public safety officer with Bloomfield Hills.

Jerry Tobin's wife, Jan, worked for the Friend of the Court's office in Wayne County. Even though she's a civilian, Jan Tobin still considers herself as part of the police community.

Jan Tobin has mixed feelings

about having so many loved ones in law enforcement. "It's a dangerous profession," she said. "And there's always a chance somebody will just blow one of them away."

"But I try not to think about the danger," she said. "They all have good training, and I believe they can all take care of themselves."

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