

Photos by Travis Heying

(Above) The casket of slain Omaha police officer Jimmy Wilson is carried from St. John's Catholic Church Thursday morning after his funeral. (Right) A riderless horse, symbolizing slain Omaha police officer Jimmy Wilson, leads a procession of police cars from the church on the Creighton University campus.

Funera

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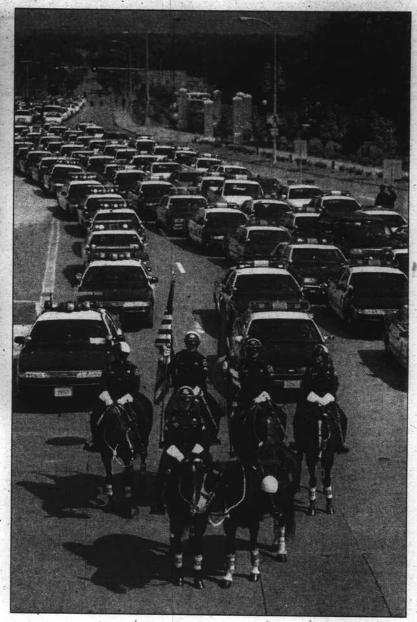
Police cruisers, some from as far away as Alliance, North Platte and Gothenburg, were parked three across

for almost four blocks. With their emergency lights flashing, they drove single-file to Calvary Cemetery to bury Wilson.

The procession was led by officers on horseback. A riderless horse, led by a member of the Omaha police honor guard, symbolized the fallen

Jeannie Wilson said her brother would have marveled at the outpouring of support offered by the people of

'After the sorrow comes an overwhelming sense of pride from such a loving community," she said in her eulogy. "If Jim could just see all the love here ..."



Nelson condemns youth gangs

OMAHA (AP) - Youth gang members must change their behavior or get out of Nebraska, Gov. Ben Nelson said Thursday after attending the funeral of a police officer who was

killed while conducting a traffic stop.
Police Officer James Wilson Jr.
was shot in the head Sunday night, the first police officer to be killed in the line of duty in Omaha since 1971. Seven people have been arrested. Police have said some, if not all, of the suspects have ties to youth gangs.

Nelson said he was not asserting that Wilson's murder was gang-re-lated. Even if it was not, Nelson said, it is time to stop the spread of youth gangs now found in cities including Omaha, Lincoln and Scottsbluff.

"If we can work with our law en-forcement officials to stamp out this scourge, to turn to these lawless individuals who kill for thrills and for other similar reasons that are unjustifed, not acceptable," Nelson said, "it is time that we say to them: 'Out, we're not going to tolerate you in the state of Nebraska.

Omaha home, the governor also said he would propose to the Legislature that the death penalty be automatic for anyone convicted of killing a police officer.

Nelson promised to appoint a task force of local and state officials, community leaders and law enforcement officials to find ways the state can combat gangs. He said legislation may be needed or some other avenues

But people must realize that cooperating with police, helping church and community groups and keeping an eye on their neighborhoods are of primary importance, Nelson said.

"It is the moral equivalent of a war against crime, particularly against gangs," Nelson said.

Nelson said his youngest son, Pat, was one year behind Wilson at Omaha Westside High School and wrestled with Wilson. His son also told the governor he had spoken with Wilson in his patrol car just a few weeks

before the slaying.
"It drives it closer to home for me, but if this were a sheer stranger situation, the result would have to be the same," Nelson said. "A stranger to me means still a son, a father, a brother, a friend of somebody else's."

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