

**Death couldn't stop Randa's kindness | Late cop's trust pays it forward for help****Milwaukee Journal Sentinel (WI) - Sunday, August 17, 2014****Readability:** 8-9 grade level (Lexile: 1080L)**Author:** DON WALKER, ;dwalker@journalsentinel.com, Milwaukee Journal Sentinel: Staff

Jack Randa worked for the Milwaukee Police Department for nearly 35 years, most of it as a narcotics detective.

One of his supervisors, former Inspector Kenneth Hagopian, called him a super detective, "one of the greatest men I've ever known, one of the best officers I've ever come across." After a career chasing criminals and cultivating informants, Randa retired in 1987 as his heart began to fail. He found out later that his insurance company would not pay for a transplant. That led friends to raise money for his medical expenses, and on Sept. 15, 1988, Randa received the heart of a 23-year-old man who died in a motorcycle crash.

A fellow police officer said Randa would always go out of his way to help people. And that's what motivated his friends to return the favor and raise money in his behalf.

Randa moved to Forest County in northern Wisconsin a few years after his transplant.

Randa died in 2011 at the age of 78 from complications from long-term, posttransplant treatment. But Randa's story is not quite over.

As much as Randa gave to Milwaukee in his years of service as a police officer, he's now giving back in a small but meaningful way.

Earlier this summer, Lt.

Charles A. Berard of the Police Department received a letter from a company representing the Jack Randa Trust.

Enclosed with the letter was a check for \$24,636.60 made out to the Milwaukee Police Department. Under the terms of a trust agreement, Randa wanted the money to help pay the unreimbursed medical expenses for the members of the Milwaukee Police Department who are experiencing some kind of financial hardship. A grateful Milwaukee Police Department said thanks.

"We are thankful for Detective Jack Randa's service to the Milwaukee Police Department and the citizens

Randa of Milwaukee," said police spokesman Lt. Mark Stanmeyer. "His posthumous generosity will provide assistance for current police officers many of whom he never met. It is a testament to his love for the profession."

Randa's sister, Patricia Drijaca, said she was not aware of her brother's gesture.

"But I don't doubt he would do something like that," she said. "He was dedicated to his job. He was just trying to pay back for what others did for him."

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**Caption:** JOURNAL SENTINEL FILES Jack Randa (center), a retired Milwaukee Police narcotics detective, is shown with two grandchildren. Randa.

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