

HALL OF FAME INDUCTEE



Sister Roberta Julie Derby
Served with the Honolulu Police Department
November 4, 1976 to April 8, 1996

Sister Roberta Julie Derby was the first female police chaplain in the United States and the only Honolulu Police Department (HPD) chaplain to receive the HPD's Warrior Silver Medal of Valor. During her nearly 20 years of service with the HPD, she earned the respect and admiration of officers of all ranks. Many of the department's high-ranking officers attributed their success to her guidance and assistance.

Sister Roberta's association with the department began in 1971, while she was teaching criminal justice classes at Chaminade University. In 1976, she started volunteering at the HPD and became the senior chaplain a year later. "Chaplain One," as she was known, was awarded the Silver Medal of Valor in 1980 for defusing a hostage situation by entering the apartment, removing the child being held at gunpoint by his father, and successfully negotiating the armed man's surrender.

In January 1989, Sister Roberta was appointed to a full-time position as the department's Police Counselor/Chaplain Coordinator and managed the activities of the Human Services Unit.

The park adjacent to the HPD headquarters is named in her honor.