# Transcript for Tribute to Officer Michael Blankenship

[MUSIC]

## Black and white photo of Officer Blankenship fades onto screen with text that says, “In memory of OSUPD Officer Michael Blankenship killed in the line of duty on February 10, 1997”

## Video fades into short clips from 1997 news stories when Officer Blankenship was killed

Tonight marks the 20th year anniversary of the death of officer Michael Blankenship. Officer Blankenship died in the line of duty while responding to a suspicious persons call.

## Video fades to clips from a Columbus Blue Jackets game in 2017 where Officer Blankenship’s family is on the ice in front of the crowd

At this time, please welcome to the ice Officer Blankenship’s family. Joining us tonight are his daughters along with their mother. We ask at this time that everyone recognize Officer Blankenship’s sacrifice by taking part in a moment of silence. Thank you.

## Video of Dianne Ratliff, daughter of Michael Blankenship

A lot of people say it gets easier. It doesn’t. It’s like it happened yesterday like it’s alive very much.

## Video of Dianne Ratliff interacting with OSUPD officers

Seeing the officers, especially the ones that he used to work with or the ones that are still there, it helps a lot knowing that they’re there and they’re friends. It’s a little bit more settling.

## Video of OSUPD Chief Craig A. Stone and video from Michael Blankenship’s funeral

It’s like a brotherhood. That’s what it’s about. We look out for each other. It’s very important to recognize him, our one and only who gave the ultimate sacrifice and died in the line of duty.

## Video of Dianne Ratliff, daughter of Michael Blankenship

It just means a lot that they planned something that’s bigger than they do every year. So it just means a lot that they want to remember it and honor him just as much as we do.

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[music fades out]