**Garda Detective John Morley**

**7th July 1980**

SEFF remembers Garda Detective John Morley who was murdered 30 years ago today by INLA terrorists. On the afternoon of 7th July 1980 the Bank of Ireland, Ballaghaderreen, Co. Roscommon was robbed of £41,000 by two armed and masked men. Having made their escape the raiders, (three of them in all), burned their getaway car and transferred to another a short distance away and headed towards Castlerea.

D/Garda John Morley with colleagues Sergeant Michael O’Malley, [Garda Henry Byrne](https://www.garda.ie/en/About-Us/Roll-of-Honour/Roll-of-Honour-description/Byrne-Henry-Gerard.html)and Garda Derek O'Kelly intercepted the raiders at Aghaderry, Shannon’s Cross, some five miles from Ballaghaderreen, where the raiders’ vehicle collided with the patrol car. One of the raiders shot at the windscreen of the patrol car. The other two raiders then opened fire on the patrol car killing Garda Byrne. Having pursued the raiders Detective Garda Morley was shot dead a short distance away.

John was born on 6th October 1942, came from Faughill, Kiltimagh, Co. Mayo. He joined An Garda Síochána on 31st March 1964. On 27th May 1979, he was appointed to Detective Branch, based at Castlerea Garda Station. He previously served at Ballaghadreen.

John had an interest in all types of sports but in particular Gaelic football. He played Senior Intercounty Gaelic football for Mayo for 13 seasons, winning Connacht Senior Championship medals in 1967 (as Captain) and 1969 and a National Football League title in 1970. He also played Rugby and Badminton.

John was aged 37 years old at the point he was murdered and married with three children, Detective Garda Morley was posthumously awarded the Scott Gold Medal on 16th September 1982.

A Gaelic football was chosen to go on John’s patch (on the Terrorism knows No Borders Quilt) to signify his lifelong involvement and love of GAA. His patch is positioned side-by-side with his colleague and friend, Henry Byrne

John is fondly and lovingly remembered by his family, colleagues and friends alike.

SEFF’s thoughts and prayers are with the Morley family today and every day.