

# Jerome J. Sklarek, 56, manager of security for Huntington Bank

NORTH OLMSTED — Jerome J. "Jerry" Sklarek had been a regional security manager for Huntington Bank since 1977, when it was known as the Union Commerce Bank.

He was responsible for the protection of employees and customers and their money at all of the bank's offices in Greater Cleveland. He especially enjoyed interaction with the public, according to co-workers.

As a member of the senior management team, Mr. Sklarek participated in the entertainment portion of the bank's annual employee recognition program. He was known to rally behind the effort, encouraging other senior managers to let their hair down and perform in fun-filled skits.

At this year's program at the downtown bank office Thursday, Mr. Sklarek and company delighted the crowd with an amusing routine to a medley from the musical, "Grease."

When the skit was over, Mr. Sklarek collapsed with a heart attack. The 56-year-old North Olmsted resident was taken to St. Vincent Charity Hospital, where he died a short time later.

Mr. Sklarek, a Lorain native, graduated from Lorain High School in 1961.

After receiving a bachelor's degree in 1966 from Alliance Col-



Jerome J. Sklarek

lege in Cambridge Springs, Pa., where he majored in history and government, he served with the Marines for two years, including a tour of duty in Vietnam. From 1968 to 1972, he was a member of the Marine Corps Reserves.

In 1972, he earned a degree from Kent State University, where he studied education and social studies. Mr. Sklarek served with the university's police force before becoming the chief of security for Union Commerce Bank.

He attended the State Highway

Patrol Academy and the Peace Officers Training Academy in 1971 and held an Ohio Vocational Police Instructor's certificate and an Ohio teaching certificate.

Mr. Sklarek was a member of Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 7647 and American Legion Post 451, both in Rocky River, and Polish Legion of American Veterans Post 58 in Cleveland.

He was past treasurer of the downtown Cleveland chapter of the Serra Club, a Catholic organization. He was a member of Knights of Columbus Council 4731 and St. Richard Catholic Church, both in North Olmsted.

Mr. Sklarek also belonged to several professional organizations.

He lived in Cuyahoga Falls before moving to North Olmsted in 1979.

Survivors include his wife of 24 years, Judy A.; daughter, Erin M. Schopf of Lakewood; and a sister.

Services will be at 9:30 a.m. today at Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary Catholic Church, 1454 Lexington Ave., Lorain.

Donations may be made to Serra District 85 Foundation, P.O. Box 18505, Cleveland Heights 44118.

Arrangements are by the Kacirek Funeral Home of North Olmsted.

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