

# SLAIN DETECTIVE HONORED BY CITY

## His Young Son Takes Helm of Boat Named for Him

By C. GERALD FRASER

A 13-year-old boy is bound to remember this sort of day.

A 52-foot, green and white police launch was named for the boy's late father, John Pollins, a narcotics squad detective who was killed in the line of duty in 1967.

And the youth, Kevin Pollins, stood yesterday in the pilot house of the 23-ton, \$127,000 boat, took the wheel and steered it up the East River.

Earlier, at the launch repair shop on Randalls Island, the boat, designated Police Launch No. 2 but named Detective John Pollins, rolled down the marine railway and into the East River almost directly below Manhattan-bound lanes of the Triboro Bridge. In naming the launch for the detective, the Police Department was following its custom of thus honoring slain policemen.

At the dedication ceremonies, Police Commissioner Patrick V. Murphy told an audience of 75 people the day was both happy and sad for him.

### 5 Launches Ordered

He said he appreciated that "especially in this year of fiscal crisis for the city" the department had received the launch, the first of five scheduled for delivery.

But he said his sadness came from the fact that Detective Pollins had to sacrifice his life to do his duty.

Mayor Lindsay said that in honoring Detective Pollins, the city was honoring "a great New Yorker, a great policeman, and so in christening the boat we do honor to all policemen in our city and to all police families."

On the platform near the bow of the launch were Mrs. Tanyia Pollins, the detective's widow, and the wives of the Mayor and the Police Commissioner.

Mrs. Pollins, who lives at 671 Westchester Avenue, the Bronx, said to the audience, "On behalf of my son and myself, thank you very much."

After the launch was in the water, Patrolman Edward McHugh, the helmsman, and others in the five-man crew took the boat out for a 23-minute cruise down the East River to the east 80's and back. It was during this time that Patrolman McHugh gave Kevin Pollins a turn at the wheel.

Kevin, who was extremely quiet during the dedication ceremonies, told his mother later that steering the boat "wasn't hard — it was easier than it looked."