

Tributes for officer and gentleman

By PETER CLACK,
Police Reporter

"I would like to say at the outset that in the days leading up to [Brian Brinkler's] death, he expressed the desire that this service be a celebration of his life, not a mourning of his passing."

With these words Commander John Dau, of the Australian Federal Police, paid a final tribute yesterday to fallen fellow officer, Detective Superintendent Brian Smith Brinkler.

All Saints Anglican Church in Ainslie was filled to overflowing as police from as far afield as South Australia joined the congregation.

About 400 police and their families attended the hour-long service and 250 AFP, SA and NSW police, Australian Army and Royal Australian Air Force officers later formed an honour guard stretching along Cowper Street near the church.

Commander Dau gave the eulogy, Commander Bill Stoll the valedictory, and an address was given at Norwood Park Crematorium by Commander Lloyd Worthy.

At Mr Brinkler's request the song, *That's What Friends Are For*, was played during a dedication ceremony at the crematorium.

Mr Brinkler, 51, died on December 31 after a 12-month illness. He leaves behind his wife, Anne, and two daughters, Shelley and Kylie.

He joined the ACT Police in 1971 on resigning from the NSW Police Service and he held senior posts in the ACT region, including that of detective in charge of City Crime branch. Before that, he had been a member of the British Grenadier Guards, serving in Germany and Guyana.

Commander Dau told the congregation that he and Mr Brinkler had become close friends over the years, and he spoke of the detective's quick mind and talent for criminal investigation.

"He was a truly professional police officer," Commander Dau said.

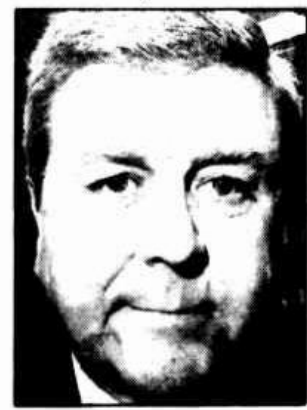
"During the difficult time of his illness Brian impressed me with his dignity. I shall never forget his courage."

After the service, Vic Groenhout, pipe major for the Canberra



Pictures: PETER WELLS

Above: The coffin is carried from the church. Below left: Anne Brinkler is comforted. Below right: Brian Brinkler.



City Pipes and Drums, played *Mull of Kintyre*.

The bearer party comprised commanders Ric Ninness and

Lloyd Worthy, superintendents Ted Foster, Dave Webster, Bob Gray and Gary Griffiths. He was known as a quietly spoken, genu-

ine police officer and a caring family man. Commander Stoll also recognised Mr Brinkler's quick wit.