



COLD.
High, 33. Low, 21.
> B14

The Seattle Times



Independent and locally owned since 1896 | seattletimes.com
1.6 million readers weekly in Western Washington, in print and online



FOUR FALLEN OFFICERS

'WE WILL REMEMBER THEM ALWAYS'



ALAN BERNER / THE SEATTLE TIMES

ABOVE: Gov. Chris Gregoire passes the flag-draped caskets of the four Lakewood police officers after speaking at their memorial Tuesday in the Tacoma Dome.

RIGHT: Nearly 20,000 law-enforcement officers, including a contingent of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police, attended the memorial, which began with a crisp salute to the slain officers' families.



TONY OVERMAN / POOL / THE OLYMPIAN

VAST 'OUTPOURING OF LOVE' | A procession and memorial on Tuesday drew thousands who came to pay their respects to four slain Lakewood police officers.

Seattle Times staff

There was biting cold and hours of waiting. There were mourners pouring in by the bus load, from Bozeman and Boston, Las Vegas and Lake Stevens. There was pain and sadness and anger.

Yet at the memorial service for the four fallen Lakewood police officers held Tuesday at the Tacoma Dome, it was strikingly quiet.

For the thousands of mourners who came to pay their respects — the vast majority of them in law enforcement — words seemed to matter little. The ceremony was about brotherhood. It was about ritual and tradition. And it was a glimpse into a world that most of us can little comprehend.

Ten days ago, the community was torn apart when Sgt. Mark Renninger and Officers Tina Griswold, Ronald Owens and Gregory Richards were shot to death as they sat in a coffee shop, working at their laptops.

Now, to begin to heal from what the governor called the "darkest day in the history of law enforcement in Washington," it was time to come together.

Hundreds line route

The day began before 9 a.m. at McChord Air Force Base, where law enforcement from more than 370 agencies mustered to begin a somber 10.3-mile drive to the arena. Two thousand vehicles long, the procession crawled. It would take until 2 p.m. for the last car finally to arrive — an hour after the memorial was scheduled to start.

As the temperature hovered in the 20s at McChord, an Air Force sergeant in his blue dress uniform stood at attention, unflinching, for three hours and 15 minutes, until the final car left the base.

"It was what I felt I needed to do," said Sgt. Chad Gloor.

People from the community gathered along the procession route. Before last week, the officers were unknown to much of the outside world. Tuesday, the passing of these strangers' hearses brought tears.

Hundreds lined a stretch of South Tacoma Way, holding flags and signs, taking photos and videos. Some stood with

See > **FAREWELL, A12**

Airline's split order a warning for the 777?

UNITED PICKS AIRBUS A350 OVER 15-YEAR-OLD JET

Boeing does snag big Dreamliner order

BY DOMINIC GATES
Seattle Times aerospace reporter

Chicago-based United Airlines announced Boeing's biggest order of the year Tuesday, for 25 of its 787 Dreamliners.

But it was a sale split evenly with Airbus, which received an or-

der for 25 of its larger twin-jet A350s.

United's wide-body fleet has until now been all-Boeing.

Still, with United in a precarious financial position, aviation analysts were divided on whether United's choice is a straw in the wind that demands a strategic shift from Boeing to safeguard the future of the 777 — a key money-maker for the company.

The order was notable for what was not included. United wants to replace its aging 747 jumbo jets but at the same time downsize its fleet. So it took a pass on both the Airbus A380 superjumbo and Boeing's new version of the jumbo, the 747-8.

And though it could have downsized to the Boeing 777, it chose instead the similar-sized A350-900, scheduled to debut in 2013.

So is the 777, the most modern of Boeing's current production

See > **BOEING, A11**

Senate reaches deal to strike public option from health bill

TENTATIVE AGREEMENT LIFTS A KEY ROADBLOCK

ABORTION-INSURANCE AMENDMENT FAILS

BY SHAILAGH MURRAY AND LORI MONTGOMERY
The Washington Post

WASHINGTON — Senate negotiators struck a tentative agreement Tuesday night to replace the controversial government-run insurance plan in their version of health-care legislation, hoping to remove one of the last major roadblocks preventing the bill from moving to a final vote.



Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid

and five moderates who had been tasked by Reid to work out their differences on the public option. Appearing with Sen. Charles Schumer, D-N.Y., leader of the liberal faction,

"We have a broad agreement," said Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid, D-Nev. "Tonight, we've overcome a real problem that we had."

The announcement came after six days of virtually round-the-clock negotiations between five liberals

and Sen. Mark Pryor, D-Ark., the moderate leader, Reid declined to detail the agreement, pending a review by congressional budget analysts.

However, asked whether the agreement means the end is in sight after nearly a year of work on President Obama's most important domestic initiative, Reid smiled. "The answer's yes," he said.

Earlier in the day, the Senate rejected an amendment that would have barred millions of Americans

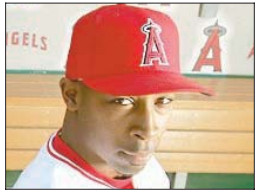
See > **INSURANCE, A10**

THE CLOCK IS TICKING as the national debt reaches \$12.1 trillion > **Close-up, A3**

BASEBALL'S WINTER MEETINGS

Figgins is officially a Mariner; the next question is what position he'll play > **C1**

Keep Beltre? Zduriencik plots his next strategy > **Larry Stone C1**



Index

ASK AMY	NWWEDNESDAY B13
BUSINESS, STOCKS	A14-16
CLOSE-UP	A3
COMICS, PUZZLES	B11-13
CROSSWORDS	NWWEDNESDAY B12
DEATHS, FUNERALS	B2

EDITORIALS

LOCAL NEWS	NWWEDNESDAY B1
LOTTERY, CORRECTIONS	A2
SPORTS ON TV, RADIO	SPORTS C2
WEATHER	NWWEDNESDAY B14
DANNY WESTNEAT	B1
YOUR WEDNESDAY	B9

Classified ads

Listings do not appear in print today. Find them online every day at www.nwsource.com/classifieds

© 2009 Seattle Times Co.
60% of our newsprint contains recycled fiber, and inks are reused.



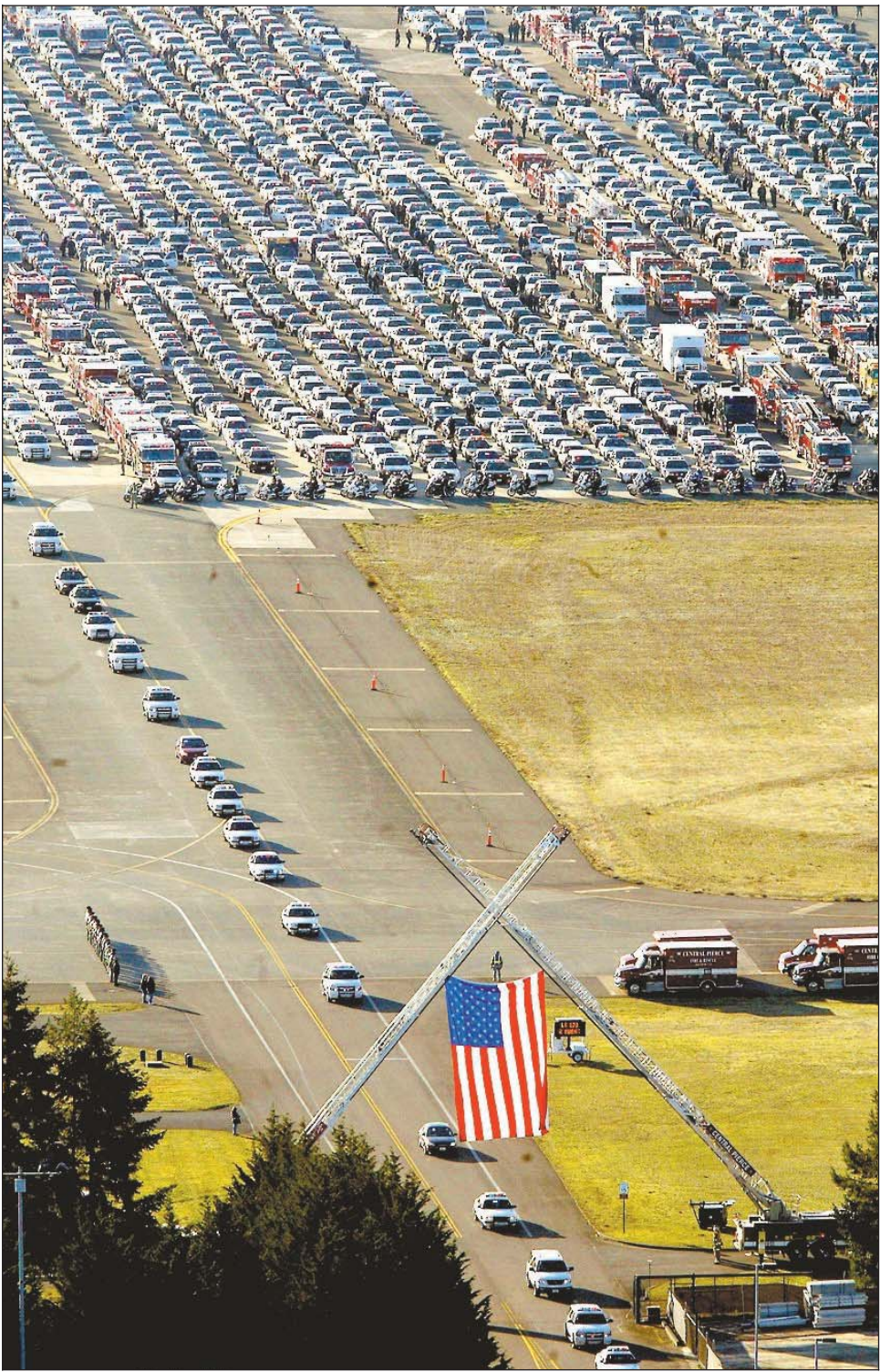


FOUR FALLEN OFFICERS



ELLEN M. BANNER / THE SEATTLE TIMES

A Puyallup police officer salutes as a hearse carrying the casket of one of the slain Lakewood officers passes the Lakewood Police Department headquarters Tuesday morning. A procession of about 2,000 law-enforcement vehicles lasted more than three hours as it made its way from McChord Air Force Base to the Tacoma Dome.



DEAN J. KOEPFLER / THE NEWS TRIBUNE

The procession begins at McChord Air Force Base, passing a flag hanging from crossed fire ladders. The sprawling procession's tail end was still at the base a half-hour after the memorial was to start. The service began more than an hour later than planned.



MIKE SIEGEL / THE SEATTLE TIMES

Bothell police Officer Dan Christman salutes as law-enforcement vehicles, red and blue lights flashing, pass on South Tacoma Way. Hundreds lined that stretch of the route.

Procession brings tears to the eyes of strangers

< Farewell FROM A1

their hands over their hearts, weeping quietly. Officers touched their hands to their car windows as they passed. Eileen Melberg, who works at a law firm along the route, said seeing the flag-draped coffins made her gasp. Roxanne Clouse, barely able to speak without crying, said she “wanted to be a part of this, support the ones who are here and let them know they all matter. I’m here to feel the cold for those that can’t.” At the Dome, snipers stood on the roof with binoculars

and high-powered weapons, scanning the crowd. Bomb-sniffing dogs were at the ready. In all, scores of officers were on the job working at the event, whether it was checking IDs at the entry gates or helping close off the streets nearby. With warnings about crowds and parking problems, members of the community were encouraged to watch the service from satellite locations and to leave the Dome to the law-enforcement family. As a result, the arena was filled with uniforms, with few outsiders. A brotherhood of blue Officers came from the New York Police Department

and from the Menominee Indian Reservation, from Arizona and Boston. They wore bomb-squad black and Royal Canadian Mounted Police red. They wore the uniforms of the military, the state Department of Corrections and the Federal Protective Service. By 10:30 a.m., the arena plaza that typically bustles with the whoops of sports fans or the strains of country music was somber. Before the procession approached, officers formed two lines, standing shoulder to shoulder and creating an aisle leading to the entrance. And they waited. They didn’t crane their necks to see what was going on; they didn’t chat or even shiver, though they wore no overcoats. They stood in silence waiting for the hearses to arrive. Helicopters buzzed overhead. A bugle cried out. Bagpipes began a dirge. The event would be “steeped in tradition,” one of the organizers said. And it was. Four white hearses passed under an enormous American flag that had been hung between the crossed ladders of two fire engines. On command, the hearse doors were opened in unison, the caskets were pulled out, and the pallbearers took up their burdens. Family members followed the caskets, arm in arm. But the service couldn’t yet begin. There were still hundreds of cars in the procession that had not yet arrived. Inside the Dome, officers milled around quietly. “It’s the same job anywhere you go,” said Luis Turcaz, an officer with the Las

Continued on next page >

A boy holds up a sign for officers to read as the procession crawls along the 10.3-mile route to the Tacoma Dome. He was standing near Lakewood police headquarters, where hearses and limousines carrying the fallen officers and their families joined the procession.



ELLEN M. BANNER / THE SEATTLE TIMES



FOUR FALLEN OFFICERS



ALAN BERNER / THE SEATTLE TIMES

Members of Officer Gregory Richards' family watch as law-enforcement officers file out of the Tacoma Dome at the conclusion of Tuesday's memorial. Officer Richards' 16-year-old son, Austin, spoke at the service, saying his father viewed his job as an honor despite its stresses.

< Continued from previous page
Vegas Metropolitan Police Department. "I can't tell you how many times I've sat at a Starbucks, face to face with another officer. I'm watching his back and he's watching mine."

"You're in uniform. You're armed. You think you're safe," he said. "This could have happened to any of us."

Turcaz, like officers from several other jurisdictions, left a police patch near the stage, a show of respect to let the families know that LVMPD was there.

Three officers stood near the flag-draped caskets — hands clasped, eyes downcast, unblinking, as if they were in a trance. Members of the honor guard, they're practiced at this routine, but no one can stand this way for too long. In a slow and elaborate ritual, the officers were relieved by other members of the honor guard every 15 minutes or so, over and over until the funeral was over.

Just after 2 p.m., another honor-guard contingent began marching toward the center aisle of the stadium. Family members followed in groups of 20, 30, 40 for each officer. Some held teddy bears and some were in wheelchairs. A little boy let out a quick wail, and was scooped up by his mother. The bagpipes began again.

It would be another half-hour or so for the speakers to begin, but the audience didn't squirm.

Memories of the fallen

Shortly before 3 p.m., Lakewood Police Chief Bret Farrar spoke of the fallen officers. "I wish they could see the outpouring of love we've seen in the last week," he said. "The hug meter must be up 10- or 12,000 by this point. Everywhere I go, I get a hug."

Friends, family and colleagues then spoke about the fallen officers.

Renninger was a SWAT officer, through and through, a guy who seemed to know where to find the crooks, even when they were on the run.

"We didn't need a canine," said Mike Villa, assistant chief of the Tukwila Police Department, where Renninger worked before joining Lakewood. "We had the man-tracker working on our crew."

Griswold may have been small, but she was tough, said her friend Pamela Battersby. "She was a tomboy who loved riding motorcycles and mixed martial arts."

WEB EXTRA

See more online

Watch video from the procession, view an audio slide show from the service, read full obituaries on the four officers and more. seattletimes.com

But Griswold "also had a soft side and enjoyed being a woman," Battersby said.

Owens loved sports, motorcycles and of course his daughter, said his older sister, Ronda LeFrancois. In high school, he entertained her friends by break dancing in the kitchen and singing Barry Manilow songs.

"I would do anything to go back to those days," LeFrancois said, holding back tears.

Richards "had a smile and laughter that radiated like sunshine," said his 16-year-old son, Austin. Just about everything made him happy.

"We were always No. 1," Austin said. Despite the pressures of the job, "he didn't become more hardened or angry, just more thankful."

His 15-year-old daughter, Jami-Mae, said her father collected lifelong friends. "My dad knew how to spot a good person and value them always."

Gov. Chris Gregoire spoke last, offering her condolences to the families on behalf of the state.

"We will remember them today," she said. "We will remember them always."

Around 5 p.m., three hours after the ceremony started, the honor guard began leading the families from the stadium.

A recording made by a Lakewood police dispatcher was played over the loudspeaker, announcing each officer by number, and then: "Gone but not forgotten."

This story was reported by staff writers Maureen O'Hagan, Marc Ramirez, Jack Broom, Lynn Thompson, Christine Clarridge, Mark Rahner and Jonathan Martin. It was written by O'Hagan.



ALAN BERNER / THE SEATTLE TIMES

Hands clasped, Officer C. Stetkar of the Hollywood, Fla., police, stands in the honor guard. Those serving were relieved by other officers every 15 minutes or so.



ALAN BERNER / THE SEATTLE TIMES

A riderless horse precedes the hearses past a row of officers from the Royal Canadian Mounted Police.

"You're in uniform. You're armed. You think you're safe. This could have happened to any of us."

LUIS TURCAZ

Officer with the Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department



Sgt. Mark Renninger

Sgt. Mark Renninger, 39, was a former Army Ranger, a nationally known SWAT team trainer and the rock of his department. He was also a devoted family man who was raising three children with his wife.

Sgt. Renninger grew up in Bethlehem, Pa., where he was a star high-school football player. After the Army, he joined the Tukwila Police Department in 1996 and moved to the Lakewood force in 2004.

He was in charge of the inter-jurisdictional Metro SWAT team and a member of the Washington State Tactical Officers Association's executive board. His family and fellow officers said he had a wonderful sense of humor and a talent for police work.



Officer Ronald Owens

Officer Ronald Owens, 37, was a second-generation police officer, a former state trooper and the loving father of a 7-year-old daughter.

Officer Owens grew up in Pierce County, excelling in basketball and baseball. He was hired by the State Patrol in 1997 and joined the Lakewood police in 2004.

Fellow officers said he always smiled, never let police work get him down and treated all with respect. They said he was a trustworthy friend and a hard worker, whether helping to process evidence or helping to change a motorist's tire.



Officer Tina Griswold

Although she stood just 4 feet, 11 inches tall, Officer Tina Griswold, 40, impressed colleagues over a 14-year career in law enforcement as a tough cop willing to go into any situation.

Officer Griswold joined the Shelton Police Department in 1995 and in 1999 moved to Lacey, where she became the only woman to serve on the force's tactical squad and to complete SWAT training.

A wife and mother of two, Officer Griswold was recruited to Lakewood's new police department in 2004. She spent four years as a school resource officer. One teacher said that Officer Griswold showed students that a small person can do a big job.



Officer Gregory Richards

Officer Gregory Richards, 42, was the glass-half-full guy, the one who saw the better view of any situation, said his widow, Kelly.

Born in Lynwood, Calif., he began playing the drums at age 8, developing what would become a lifelong passion for music. He played drums in a police rock band.

He enlisted in the Army in 1985, and served until 1989. Officer Richards hired on at the Kent Police Department in 2001, and joined the Lakewood force in 2004. A father of three, his friends said he was family man first and a cop second.

It was Officer Richards who got off the shot that wounded shooter Maurice Clemmons.



ALAN BERNER / THE SEATTLE TIMES

Four teams of six law-enforcement officers carefully lift the flags that draped each casket before folding the flags and presenting them to surviving family members.

How to help

THE LAKEWOOD Police Independent Guild is accepting donations for the families of the four slain police officers. Checks can be made to the LPIG Benevolent Fund and sent to P.O. Box 99579, Lakewood, WA 98499. Donations also can be made online at www.lpig.us.