

Lakewood Police Officer Memorial Ceremony

December 8, 2009



Sergeant Mark Renninger
Officer Tina Griswold
Officer Ronald Owens
Officer Greg Richards





Memorial Ceremony Lakewood Police Officers



December 8, 2009 1 p.m.

Invocation..... Chaplain Dennis Fountain

Welcome Remarks Mayor Doug Richardson
City of Lakewood

Remarks Chief Bret Farrar
Lakewood Police Department

23rd Psalm Chaplains Larry and Diane Huffman
Lakewood Fire Department

Prayer Chaplain Alve Robbins

Comments by Family and Friends

Assistant Chief Mike Villa, Tukwila Police Department
Assistant Chief Michael Zaro, Lakewood Police Department
Pamella Battersby
Ronda LeFrancois
Austin Richards
Jami-Mae Richards

Memorial Video Presentation

Special Music Lakewood Officer Gene Sievers
"The Dance"

Remarks Governor Christine Gregoire

Benediction Chaplain Alve Robbins



Sergeant Mark Renninger

Sergeant Mark Renninger was born in Bethlehem, Pennsylvania, on August 13, 1970. He grew up in Bethlehem where he graduated from Liberty High School in 1989. Mark joined the US Army in August of 1989 where he became active with the 75th Ranger Regiment at Fort Benning, Georgia. He later came to Fort Lewis, Washington, in 1993 where he was assigned to the 2nd Ranger Battalion and was honorably discharged in 1996. Mark was hired by the Tukwila Police Department and quickly became a leader in the patrol unit. While in Tukwila, Mark was active with the Community Oriented Policing Unit, the Pro-Act Team and eventually found his true dream assignment as a SWAT Officer in 2001. Over time, Mark became an instructor in Rifle/Shotgun, Non Lethal Applications and Defensive Tactics Level I and II. Mark later became a well respected instructor of SRT/SWAT Basic and High Risk Entry Team both locally and nationally with Washington State Training Officers Association and the National Training Officers Association.



Mark brought these talents to the Lakewood Police Department in December of 2004. Mark worked as a patrol officer and later served in the Neighborhood Patrol Officer Unit before being promoted to Patrol Sergeant in 2008. Mark joined the Metro SWAT Team in April of 2005 where he became the Team Leader. Mark brought his knowledge, experience, stability, wisdom and gift for teaching with him.

Mark was a devoted family man who is survived by his wife Kim, daughters Letra and Allison, and son Nicholas. He always made it a point to leave work at the office and concentrate on family at home. Mark was a devoted fan of Penn State Football as evidenced by his collection of Penn State memorabilia and constant promotion of his team around the station. Mark was also an avid fan of NASCAR. Mark had attended several races and was always looking forward to finding another race to attend.

As a Police Officer, Mark was awarded the Medal of Merit, The Core Values Award, Distinguished Service Award and the Chief's Commendation. Mark's sharp sense of humor, strong work ethic, professionalism and bright teaching abilities will be greatly missed by all who knew him.



Officer Tina Griswold



Officer Tina Griswold was born in Port Angeles, Washington on January 28, 1969. She started her law enforcement career as a dispatcher with the Shelton Police Department and was later hired as a police officer with them.

She then moved to the Lacey Police Department and was hired by the Lakewood Police Department in 2004.

Tina was a dedicated mother of two children, Nicole and Marcus, a loving wife, an awesome friend and a great little sister.

Tina took great pride in what she did and worked hard serving the community as a police officer. She loved her job. During her career, she worked as a patrol officer, a School Resource Officer and an investigator with Special Operations, which included performing in an undercover capacity.

A little known fact about Tina is that she was the only female in the Lacey Police Department to complete SWAT training. She was only 5 feet tall and 98 pounds, but Tina believed in her heart and mind that she was 6'2" and weighed 220.

Tina was always eager for a good debate, which generally focused around politics. She was a true conservative and wasn't afraid to share her thoughts. Tina's faith in God and Country never wavered.



Officer Ronald Owens

Officer Ronnie Owens was born on December 2, 1971 in Tacoma, Washington. He attended and graduated from Washington High School in 1990 where he excelled at basketball and baseball. After high school, he attended Walla Walla Community College and played baseball for one year, until an injury ended his career.



Ronnie was employed with Pierce County Public Works and eventually was hired by the Washington State Patrol in 1997, graduating from the WSP academy's 83rd basic training class. He was assigned to District 2 and patrolled the I-5 through Downtown Seattle. He was a member of the WSP's Civil Disobedience Action Team and a veteran of the World Trade Organization (WTO) riots in 1999. Ronnie later transferred to District 1 and patrolled along the I-5 corridor through Tacoma until accepting a lateral police officer position with the Lakewood Police Department in 2004.

Ronnie worked in the Traffic Enforcement Unit and later was reassigned to swing shift patrol from 2006-2008, working Lakewood's south districts. He transferred to day shift patrol in 2008 where he remained until his death.

During his 12 year career, Ronnie was awarded several police commendations recognizing his work ethic, determination and dependability.

Ronnie stood 6'4" and weighed 220 pounds. Even though his stature was large, he was known for his positive, upbeat and carefree nature - always ready to make you laugh. He was a dedicated and loving father, enjoyed riding his motorcycle and spending precious time with his daughter and family. He was an avid fan of NASCAR and Motorcross racing. Ronnie is preceded in death by his father Ronald Owens, a retired Tacoma Police Department Sergeant and is survived by his mother Ramona, daughter Madison, sisters Ronda and Shannon and many nieces and nephews.



Officer Greg Richards



Officer Gregory James Richards was born on January, 1967 in Lynwood, California, to proud parents James and Freda Richards. His early childhood was spent in Diamond Bar, California.

From the age of seven, he lived in Hacienda Heights, California, where he became interested in music and began learning to play the drums ~ passions throughout his life.

At Glen A. Wilson High School, Greg was in the Wilson Wildcat marching band. While a senior, he performed at President Ronald Reagan's Inauguration in Washington, D.C.

Once graduating high school, he enlisted in the United States Army in October 1985. He was stationed at Fort Lewis, Washington, "C" Company 2nd Battalion Infantry. While stationed there he received a Good Conduct Medal, the Humanitarian Service Award, and a Marksman's Badge. He was Honorably discharged January 6, 1989.

During this time, Greg met his future wife, Kelly Mitchell. They married on May 22, 1992, and had three beautiful children, Austin, age 17; Jami-Mae, 15; and Gavin, 10.

Greg was employed by Simpson Timber in Tacoma, Washington, prior to his decision to become a police officer. Once Greg graduated from the Police Academy, he chose to begin his career at the Kent Police Department. Greg then left Kent to become one of the original (founding) officers of the Lakewood P.D., where on November 29, he tragically lost his life protecting his fellow officers and all whom he served. He was a true hero in everyone's eyes.

Gregory is survived by his widow, Kelly and three children: Austin, Jamie-Mae, and Gavin; along with his father, James M. Richards; a brother, Gary Richards; sister Gayle Goellner; and sister Gabrielle Boole; his in-laws, Margaret and Larry Mitchell, Kim Thornton, Melanie Burwell; nieces and nephews, EJ Goellner, Falon and Mallory Boole, Arianna, Olivia, and Dallas Thornton, Marissa, Mitchell, and Maddie-Lynn Burwell.



Police Officers' Prayer

Lord, I ask for courage.

Courage to face and conquer my own fears ...

Courage to take me where others will not go.

I ask for strength.

Strength of body to protect others and

Strength of spirit to lead others.

I ask for dedication.

Dedication to my job, to do it well ...

Dedication to my community, to keep it safe.

Give me Lord,

Concern for others who trust me and

Compassion for

those who need me ...

And please Lord,

Through it all ...

Be at my side.



Pallbearers

Sergeant Mark Renninger

Matt Renninger
Mike Renninger
Marty Renninger
Johnny Renninger
James Syler
Michael Wiley

Honorary:

Eric Lund
Rod Smith
Mario Contreras
Hugh Roberts
Jon Waller
Russ Hicks

Officer Tina Griswold

Joe Kolp
Tom Arnold
Bev Reinhold
Terence Brimmer
Harry Heldreth
Ken Potts

Honorary:

Jeff Hall
John Hinterly

Officer Ronald Owens

Jeff Martin
Dave Crommes
Gary Nicholson
Walter Heilig
Josh LeFrancois

Honorary:

Jacob LeFrancois
Forest Campbell

Officer Greg Richards

Gene Sievers
Howard Engeldow
Mark Williams
Gary Richards
Gary Gellner
Eric J (EJ) Gellner

Honorary:

Kenneth Henson
Oscar Maysonet
Dave Buttonshoen

