

# SPOKANE POLICE DEPARTMENT

Monthly Newsletter—February 2011 Edition



In 2006 the Vertical Staffing Committee policy was established. The purpose of this committee is to invite line staff and command personnel to work together for innovative problem solving and workplace improvement. This has been an excellent tool in the identification, study and subsequent implementation of many programs and systems. A few of the more notable projects include the implementation of jumpsuits, patrol rifles, the name combine project, and the alternative firearm carry policy.



The City has since initiated the Employee Led Innovation program which is a variation of our Vertical Staffing Committee. I bring this to your attention as ELI has provided many improvements from a city-wide perspective and I also wish to point out that we, the Spokane Police Department, were the leaders in this realm.

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We would like to dedicate this edition of the Spokane Police Department Newsletter to Gene LaLiberte.

Read more about Gene on page 3...

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Our Vertical Staffing Committee continues on with workplace improvement projects. We currently have the Communications Unit Sustainability Vertical Staffing Committee with Tanya Hauenstein serving as the Chair and Gene Baldwin as the Co-Chair. The committee members are Marie White, Heather Gillespie, Kevin King, Jeremy Daniel, Tim Ottmar, Trevor Berg, Eric Olsen, Carly Cortright, Karl Thompson, Marisa Kurtz, Marvin Tucker, Bill Drollinger, Bryan Tafoya, Michele Madsen, and Sandy O'Connor.

I now invite you to participate in a new Vertical Staffing Committee study. As you may be aware, the Ford Crown Victoria Police Interceptor is being discontinued. Our final purchase of these cars was approved by the City Council on February 21<sup>st</sup>. We are now faced with identifying our replacement frontline police vehicle. There are many new police package vehicles on the market to choose from. I have asked Sgt. Yamada to form a Vertical Staffing Committee to conduct the research and make a recommendation to Senior Staff for the 2012 purchase of police vehicles. The scope of the study will include the make and model, internal and external equipment, color scheme, graphics, etc.

If you would like to "volunteer" for this committee please contact Sgt. Yamada. Your involvement in this process is important as this will likely be a 10-15 year purchasing decision.

- Assistant Chief Jim Nicks

## Retiring After 33 Years! Major Scott Johnson

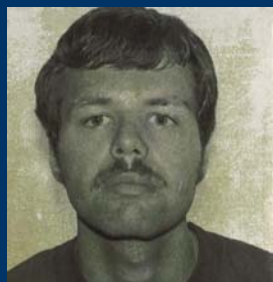


Scott Johnson was hired as a Police Officer by the Spokane Police Department on June 16, 1974. He was laid off on December 29, 1974 and rehired from layoff on May 1, 1977.

Johnson promoted to Corporal on April 15, 1984 and he promoted to Sergeant on July 15, 1984. Johnson then promoted to Lieutenant on March 6, 1988 and to Captain on February 4, 2001. Due to budget cuts, Johnson took a voluntary demotion on January 2, 2005 to Lieutenant. Johnson was promoted to Major on February 25, 2007. He most recently oversaw the Operations Unit of the Police Department. Major Johnson's official retirement date was February 22, 2011.

**Congratulations, Major Johnson, on your retirement!!**

**We will miss you and wish you all the best!**



*Day in and day out, Gene arrived at the office, announcing his presence with a bevy of bird whistles. He was usually there by 8:30 and stayed until 3:30. Gene kept all of the Seniors updated on all the information they need to know. Quite honestly, without Gene's effort, the Senior program would not be nearly so successful. Without Gene, my job would have been impossible. And without Gene, life in the office would not have been nearly so fun.*

*- Frank Scalise, then Sergeant overseeing the Volunteer Programs*

The Spokane Police Department has lost one of its finest and most dedicated members. Senior Volunteer Gene LaLiberte passed away on Friday, February 18, 2011. He was 91 years young.

Gene was never old. He would never allow his biological age to stop him from doing what he wanted to do. He was young at heart, mind, spirit and attitude. He had more stamina than many people half his age and a heart twice as big. He was a very compassionate and dedicated man to his family, friends, his work and to life.

Born May 22, 1919 in Flint, Michigan, Gene enlisted in the Army Air Corps in 1940. After graduating from Officers Candidate School in 1943, he served almost 34 years on active duty; serving in WWII, the Korean War and during the Viet Nam Conflict. He was awarded the Meritorious Service Medal three times and the Air Force Commendation Medal five times. Gene retired from Fairchild Air Force Base in 1973 and was a founding member of the Fairchild Federal Credit Union, currently Global Credit Union after retiring from the military. Gene worked as a loan officer and branch supervisor for 13 years.



*Gene, and Hazel Vercrusse*



*This news hits really hard. Gene's unfailing kindness, compassion, and great skill in dealing with all kinds of people will be sorely missed.*

*Mary B. Verner, Mayor*



Never one to be idle, after he "retired" from the CU, Gene joined the Spokane Police Department Senior Volunteers in 1990 due to his compassion and dedication to the community. He ultimately became Co-Director of the Senior Volunteer Program accumulating 40,800 + hours of public service. Gene worked all of the community events, car seat safety checks, and all employee receptions. He particularly enjoyed playing McGruff the crime-fighting dog at schools, churches, parades and other events. For 32 years, until his health prevented it, every Christmas Eve he would be at the Spokane International Airport dressed as Santa Claus, handing out candy canes to the children who were traveling on this special night.



*Gene (front), with Law Enforcement Museum Volunteers Jim Manson, Sue Walker, Dave Thompson and Anita Boyden*

In 2006, Gene received the Leonard LeMay Award, for being the Volunteer of the Year. He also received an Above and Beyond the Call of Duty Award in 2009. At this year's awards ceremony, Sgt. Chuck Reisenauer, who currently oversees SPD's volunteer programs, was going to present Gene with a Lifetime Achievement Award.

Any donations in Gene's memory may be made to the Spokane Law Enforcement Museum (SPEM) to the Eugene J. La Liberte Memorial Fund. On February 26, 2011, 18 members of Gene's family toured the museum to honor his love for his law enforcement family and donated seed money to this fund.

People who knew Gene will miss his vigor, humor, compassion and hearing his whistling coming down the hall at work.

**His memory will always have a permanent place in our hearts. Once met, never forgotten.**

## Spokane Police Department—Employee Awards Ceremony

On Wednesday, February 16, 2011 at the City County Chambers, the Spokane Police Department recognized award recipients from 2010. Below is a list of the awards given:

### LIFESAVING MEDAL

Officer Jeff Graves  
Officer Barry O'Connell  
Officer Tim Moses  
Officer Dave Kennedy  
Officer Dan Lesser  
Officer Jay Kernkamp



Officer Darrell Quarles  
Officer Shaidon Storch  
Officer Rhian Wilkinson  
Officer Steve Arredondo  
Officer Mario Juarez  
Corporal Dave Beckley



*Chief Kirkpatrick, Ofc. Barry O'Connell,  
Ofc. Tim Moses, Mayor Verner*



*Chief Kirkpatrick, Ofc. Chris Johnson, Ofc. Chris Douville,  
Ofc. Steve Arredondo, Ofc. Mario Juarez, Cpl. Dave Beckley, Mayor Verner*

### MEDAL OF VALOR



Sergeant Jason Hartman

### MEDAL OF MERIT



Detective Stacey Carr  
Officer Terry Preuninger

### SILVER STAR



Officer Jerry Anderson  
Officer Chris Douville  
Officer Chris Johnson

### Chief's Citation Award—Property/Evidence Facility Staff

#### Employees of the Quarter

1st Quarter—Sergeant Tom Hendren  
2nd Quarter—Meta Marshall  
3rd Quarter—Jason Franklin  
4th Quarter—Corporal Kevin Busch

**Congratulations to Sergeant Tom Hendren who was selected as the Employee of the Year!**

**Please visit the SPD Heroes page on our website to read the nomination letters for these incidents and to view all awards given at the Volunteer Awards Ceremony on page 4.**

## Spokane Police Department—Volunteer Awards Ceremony



### Volunteer of the Year—Joe Martinez

Joe Martinez has been a Senior Volunteer since August of 1990. During the past 20 plus years Joe has volunteered 15426 hours. Joe worked for the USAF from 1951 to 1976 as a mechanic when an injury ended his ability work as a mechanic. He reentered the work force briefly then turned to volunteering.

Joe supports the Spokane Police Department and this community in everything he does and SPD is a better place to be due to Joe's dedication and support.

### Senior Volunteer of the Year—Marla McDonald

Marla McDonald started with the Senior Volunteers in July of 2009. She has volunteered over 660 hours in the past 18 months. During the move from the Public Safety Building to the new Gardner Building Marla was working in support of the investigative clerical staff. Marla filled in extensively while some members of the staff were dealing with health issues. Her dedication meant an almost seamless transition.



### Reserve Officer of the Year—Ryan Akins

Ryan has been a Reserve Officer with the SPD since January 2009. Ryan donated 317 hours in 2010. Ryan came to the Reserve Officer program from the CO-OP program. Since July of 2007 Ryan has volunteered over 1440 hours.

Ryan is a dedicated Reserve Officer, doing his best to support Patrol when riding on a shift. Ryan is testing often to become a police officer with many law enforcement agencies. Ryan has the drive for excellence that will allow him to be a great police officer.

### Explorer of the Year—Alisha Fiskvik

Alisha has been a member of the SPD Explorer Post since February of 2008. She contributed 541 hours in 2010. Alisha was Lieutenant for the Post for most of 2010 and was promoted to the rank of Captain, the highest rank in the post, at the end of the year.

Alisha oversees all of the activities of the Post and coordinates with the Explorers about important events. She is always positive and is a great role model for other Explorers to look up to.



### CO-OP of the Year—Greg Thompson

Greg has been a CO-OP since November of 2009. Greg volunteered 777 hours in 2010. Greg is currently a student at Spokane EWU where he is studying Accounting and Business. Along with going to school full time, Greg works part time in the family business.

Greg is one of four Corporals in the program a Level II CO-OP and FTO. Greg assists training new CO-OPs out in the field supporting Patrol. Greg is an excellent CO-OP and will be an excellent law enforcement officer if he so chooses.



The Medal of Valor is the highest recognition of achievement presented by the Spokane Police Department. It is awarded to department employees who distinguish themselves with extraordinary acts of bravery or heroism above and beyond that normally expected in the line of duty.

Employees must have displayed extreme courage by placing their own safety in immediate peril in the pursuit of their duties.

On October 14, 2010, at 15:52 hours the Washington Trust Bank on west Francis was robbed by a subject armed with a handgun. Witnesses called 911 and were giving directions as to the fleeing bank robber's location. Sergeant Jason Hartman was in the area and responded to the robbery.

Sgt. Hartman observed the suspect fleeing on a bicycle toward Salk Junior High School which had some after school activities occurring outside on the playground. Knowing the robbery suspect was armed, Sgt. Hartman pulled his vehicle into the path of the robbery suspect to keep him from going any closer to the school. The robbery suspect would not stop and collided with Sgt. Hartman's vehicle causing him to fly off the bicycle, into the car and onto the ground. During this collision the handgun fell to the ground. Sgt. Hartman had the suspect at gun point, but the suspect made a move for the handgun. Sgt. Hartman immediately went hands on to control the suspect until patrol units could arrive to assist with taking the suspect into custody. Sgt. Hartman asked one of the witnesses, who had been following the suspect and stopped at his location, to carefully pick up the gun and move it further away onto the grass away from him and the suspect.

Sgt. Hartman had prior knowledge of this serial bank robber and knew him to be extremely dangerous. Even though he was in plain clothes and not wearing a vest, Sgt. Hartman made the courageous decision to confront the suspect at that time to prevent his escape or his further endangering of innocent citizens, even if it meant he had to shoot it out with him then and there.

Not enough can be said about Sgt. Hartman's quick thinking, quick actions, and his bravery to bring this very dangerous incident to a conclusion! Sgt. Hartman distinguished himself with extraordinary acts of bravery by placing his own safety in immediate peril.



**The Chief's Citation Award is intended to recognize members of a team or unit for participating in an incident, event or series of events, or project which has a substantial positive impact on the community or the police department. The incident, event or project must be superior in nature and further the Department's mission and overall effectiveness.**

Lt. Mullennix wrote, "Since 2007, I have had the great fortune to work with Shannon Hallam and her staff as they labored tirelessly to provide outstanding service to law enforcement personnel, the prosecutor's office, defense counsel, and the public in efforts to properly document and store evidence, have it ready for transport and processing, make evidence available for exhibition in court or to return to citizens when appropriate, or dispose of it via destruction or auction. When I began my working relationship with them, the ratio of items in to items out was 2 to 1. The ratio is now approximately 1 item in to 1.5 items out. That was a critical turnaround because of the extremely limited space. Most sections were at 100% capacity or higher. Their excellent work ethic and implementation of innovative ideas such as making the facility go paperless, policy changes that directly affected not having to store large amounts of marijuana and method of storage and preservation of DNA, to providing records with the ability to retrieve information from BEAST which directly improves their access, eliminates scanning of documents, which in turn will save an immense amount of paper has also contributed to the quality of service provided by Shannon and her staff to the police department as a whole, and specifically contributed to the efficiency of the Records Division. Shannon was also instrumental in implementing a procedure whereby she and her staff would handle the items seized by SIU and auction that which could be auctioned, thereby taking over duties formerly performed by the SIU administration, greatly reducing SIU's work load. These are only a few, but some of the most poignant achievements and contributions to the community and police department. It is difficult to imagine what more they could do regarding efficiency and innovation, but if it can be done, they will find a way.

Due to the critical state of the current of the building now housing the Property/Evidence facility, Shannon Hallam and Tom Bell became intensely invested in the search for a new location for a new Property/Evidence facility or an existing facility that could be renovated to suit our needs, while continuing to perform their regular duties at an extremely high level of proficiency. They visited numerous sites, worked closely with police administration, and with the real estate and finance department of the city. While the project had the full support and participation of the Mayor, finance, real estate and other critical entities, as well as the police administration, their expertise regarding the footprint of the facility and daily operational necessities was invaluable to the process as it moved forward. The fruit of the labor is a facility currently undergoing remodeling with a completion/opening target date of spring 2011. The Property/Evidence staff's efforts epitomize the criteria set forth for the Chief's Citation Award."



*Members of this team include: Shannon Hallam, Phyllis Jessen, Rick Hayes, Mike Fetcho, Tom Bell, Kevin Berry, Sally Wright, and Ty Madison*

German Cadet Jens Muth from Hessian, Germany, recently spent four weeks with members of the Spokane Police Department as part of advanced police training.

Muth had visited friends living in Spokane about four years ago and rode with SPD Officer Rob Boothe. Muth was very impressed and had a great time. He maintained his friendship with Boothe over the past few years.

In 2002, Muth began his law enforcement career as a government attendant (wachpolizei). By 2008, Muth decided to become a police public official (kriminal kommissar) and began the education process. That process required three practical training sessions; the first six



months, Muth learned basic police skills. The second six month session was working in the field with other police officers. After excelling during those practicals, he was given an opportunity to spend four weeks with a police department in another country.

Muth contacted Officer Boothe and in turn sent a letter to SPD Assistant Chief Jim Nicks who approved the internship. Muth also applied to his academy in Germany, and

was granted the approval. Muth will submit a written account of his experiences upon his return.

On January 22, 2011, Muth left Frankfurt and was met by friends at the Spokane Airport. He spent the following four weeks with an SPD host family, and each day he was exposed to various units within Spokane Police Department. Muth trained with the SPD SWAT Team, observed search warrants executed by both the Gang Unit and Special Investigations Unit. Muth rode with patrol officers during each patrol shift as well as trained with our K9 Unit.



*Jens and Ofc. Terry Preuninger*

Muth returned to Germany this coming Sunday, February 20th and will take written exams in May and oral exams in June. He had a fantastic experience and we wish him well!



*Muth, with SPD Senior Staff*



**By: Jennifer DeRuwe**

Spokane Police Officer Tony Lamanna was recently diagnosed with a life threatening condition known as Light Chain Deposition Disease. Many of you may recognize Tony from his extremely active role in the Inland Northwest Honor Flight program; which Tony is a co-founder of the local chapter.



**Sgt. Kevin Huddle, Ofc. Rick Atkins, Tony, Ofc. Erin Raleigh and Ofc. Frank Erhart shaved their heads as a tribute of support for Tony.**

As a course of treatment, Tony recently underwent two days of chemotherapy and then a stem cell transplant. The transplant process allowed doctors to administer Tony's own healthy stem cells back into his blood system, once the immune system had been completely depleted. The hope is for the healthy and immature stem cells to be introduced back into the circulatory system and re-create the new and healthy bone marrow.

By the end of January, Tony's immune system is coming back alive and his white blood cells are on the rise. He has been released from the hospital and is recovering at home. Tony has been a strong and focused warrior in his fight against cancer, and the love and support from his family at SPD is a tribute to his strength.

Friends and family searched for an outlet for community members to express themselves to Tony. Traditionally, people want to express their

thoughts and compassion by sending "Get Well" flowers, candy or gifts while patients are in the hospital, but sadly Tony was in such a fragile and vulnerable condition he wasn't able to accept these gifts.

Tony is an avid WWII fanatic, educating himself about every minute detail of war trivia. He spends every birthday watching WWII movies, established the Inland Northwest Chapter of Honor Flight and has converted the majority of his home to be his own personal tribute and memorial to WWII veterans. Tony has researched and embarked on two personal vacations in which travelers tour through the WWII Atlantic theater of war as well as the Pacific Theater. He expressed to friends the last tour he would like to experience is the "Stephen Ambrose Italian Campaign" which is a tour of the lower Atlantic Theater. The cost of such a trip is between \$3000 and \$4000. Members of the Spokane Police Department rallied and donated \$3476 to Tony so that once he is healthy, he can experience the tour.

The trip will serve as an awesome reminder for Tony, as an up and coming cancer survivor, of the challenge he faced and conquered, and a humbling opportunity to remember the amazing men and women who bravely fought for this great county, which blessed Tony with the medical technology to overcome his battle with cancer.



Tony has been greatly humbled by the outpouring of support during his time of need. Words cannot express Tony's appreciation for the acts of kindness shown by members of the Spokane Police Department.

My good friends, Tim and Kimra Wiggins, were faced with raising their three year old granddaughter, Kayla, when the mother was found unfit to do so herself. About six months later she was diagnosed with Osteosarcoma (bone cancer). A few months after being diagnosed, and at only five years old, Kayla's right leg was amputated, making her a bilateral above the knee amputee.

**By: Priscilla Sivanish**

After telling my coworkers about her story, many asked if there was anything they could do to help. We decided to take a collection of toys, books, hats, cards etc. and sent it to her from Police Records. People continued to ask me about her and how she was doing. Kayla stayed cancer free for six months, but unfortunately the cancer came back.



The good news is Kayla was accepted into a clinical cancer trial at MD Anderson Cancer Center in Houston, TX. The bad news is this trial was not covered by her insurance and cost \$10,000 to get there. In fact, with all the cutbacks, Medicare doesn't cover a lot of basic things that she needs.

Tim and Kimra started raising money for the trial and trip expenses. I passed their flyer out to those at work who often asked about her. Theresa Giannetto (Records Manager) suggested we have a fundraiser for her here in Records. So that's what we did!



On Valentine's Day we held a bake sale and raffle. We had so many baked goods that we didn't have enough tables for it all. People from other departments even brought in food. Kayla was able to come with her grandparents for a few hours and although she wasn't feeling well, she met Sheriff Knezovich and Chief Kirkpatrick while here. In fact, she and the Chief had the same color scheme going! From 8:30 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. there was a steady stream of people coming in to shop for goodies for their loved ones. People even dropped in just to put a bill in the donation bowl and walked out with nothing.



It was amazing how everyone came in to support little Kayla. Folks set up the decorations, baked goods, donated items for the basket we raffled, spread the word, and a couple officers came in to give Kayla stuffed animals. I was touched by everyone's support that day and so were the Wiggins.



After all was said and done we raised \$1,800 for Kayla. The Wiggins family reached their fundraising goal and will be headed to Texas to begin the trial the first of March. We all wish her lots of luck and now that more people know who she is and her story, I'm sure she'll have a lot of other people praying for her too. When I think I'm having a bad day I think of Kayla and what she's had to endure as such a young age. I quickly snap out of it and realize I have it good! I'm also proud to work with all of you!

**Thank you again for your support of Kayla.**

## YEARS OF SERVICE



Jay Mehring  
15 Years



Mike Fetcho  
5 Years



Deanna Schmidt  
5 Years



Shaidon Storch  
5 Years



Ron Van Tassel  
5 Years

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## The Ugly, the Bad and the Good



*By: Pam Ames*

Let's think through from last month. I challenged you to apologize if it was needed. Now what about the other side? What if someone takes my advice and apologizes to you? Will you forgive them or will you just blow them off?

To forgive doesn't mean you agree with what was done in the past. It means that you are willing to cease to hold resentment against the person. Holding onto unforgiveness is like taking poison and hoping the other person gets sick. In Colossians 3:13 it says, "Forgive, as the Lord forgave you." It's not a bad idea. God doesn't think so.

The Chaplains are wholly funded by the support of folks like you.

If you would like to donate to this faithful organization, you can call Chaplain Ron Alter at 768-5164 or Chaplain Beth Wilson at 981-2883.

"Around Nov. 27th after a domestic dispute at home that did involve a firearm, I left my residence not thinking clearly at all. I pulled into a gas station to call my wife and apologize for what had just transpired (not realizing Officer Tim Moses was behind me). When I exited my vehicle I was confronted by Officer Moses. Not thinking clearly after what had just happened at home and now realizing I'm probably going to be arrested, I reached into my vehicle and produced a firearm. I then put the gun to my head. By then there were a lot of officers on scene and were all yelling at me. That is all but one. Officer Moses, in what was by far the closest I probably ever came to being shot, talked to me like a human being. He showed me compassion in a time of crisis that I take full responsibility of causing. I, by all rights, should have been shot that day. The police had every right to. I displayed a weapon and acted like a total fool. I believe I'm alive today due to Officer Moses and how he chose to react to my recklessness. He did not ask to be put in this situation, nor did anyone else I came into contact that day. It was all my own doing. This whole process from the time I was out of my vehicle to actually being in handcuffs probably lasted five minutes. To me it was eternity. I'm a father of two and have been married for 18 years, and lived on the same street my whole life. I am alive today because of the training and compassion Officer Moses gave me. I feel officers in this town used lethal force when they absolutely had to. You don't want to be in these situations anymore than I did that day. But I thank God everyday for officers like Tim Moses. He should be given a medal for saving a distraught persons life. I consider him my guardian angel. I feel with all these officer involved shootings lately its time to hear how we had an officer involved in a life saving moment. I praise Officer Moses. If there were more people like him in this world it truly would be awesome. Thank you Mr. Moses for rising to the occasion in my moment of crisis. I owe you my life. God Bless You."

Although this man addresses Officer Moses directly, Moses said, "This ain't about me. It's about the men and women who stood beside me on this call. It is about the 13 of us on that call that did not kill him even though he presented us with a text book situation to do so. While Ofc. O'Brien and I had him at gunpoint with a pistol and a rifle at about 25 feet, he dropped the magazine and racked the round out. He then turned, lasering several of us, and dropped the gun in his truck. Any one of the 13 on scene could have shot him, rightfully, because only Ofc. O'Brien and I saw him unload the gun. All they saw was him point the handgun at us. I believe this is testimony to our depth of training, amount of restraint we practice daily if not hourly, and how much we trust one another with each other's lives out here. It emphasizes the fact that people put US in situations to harm them, we don't put ourselves there."

As a retired CT State Trooper with over 22 years in law enforcement I want to send this note of congratulations to Officer Tim Moses for a job well done with the man "Joe" at the gas station. He handled himself with compassion, common sense and most of all professionalism in a fluid situation that could have ended very tragically. Officer Moses is a credit to your department and to the profession as a whole. Stay safe.

-Jim Barnes, Florida





**Badge Pinning Ceremony**  
March 17, 2011—1:00 p.m.  
Spokane Police Academy  
2302 N. Waterworks



**Major Craig Meidl**  
**Lieutenant Alan Arnzen**  
**Sergeant Dean Sprague**  
**Sergeant Tony Meyer**

**Congratulations!**

**Spokane Police Department**

1100 W Mallon Ave  
Spokane WA 99260-0001

[www.spokanepolice.org](http://www.spokanepolice.org)

**Memorial Service**  
**Deputy Sheriff Shandon Wright**  
**Pierce County Sheriffs Office**  
**End of Watch: 3/3/2011**  
**Tour of Duty: 5 Years**  
**Badge Number: 495**

Deputy Wright died on Thursday, March 3rd, less than 24 hours after undergoing shoulder surgery for an injury suffered during an on-duty assault on August 19th, 2010.

Deputy Shandon Wright was 29 years old, and is survived by a wife and young daughter. Deputy Wright was a five-year veteran of the Pierce County Sheriff's Department.

The memorial ceremony will be held Friday, March 11, 2011, at 1 p.m. at the Champions Centre, Tacoma.

**SUGGESTIONS—COMMENTS?**

**Editor, Kiley Friesen**  
[kmfriesen@spokanepolice.org](mailto:kmfriesen@spokanepolice.org)

