

Reserve Police Officer Robert Libke

Oregon City , Oregon P.D.
End of Watch: November 3, 2013
Cause: Gunfire
Age: 41
Years of Service: 4

Description: Reserve Police Officer Robert Libke of the Oregon City Police Department fell in the line of duty on November 3, 2013 Clackamas County Fire District #1 and Oregon City Police units were dispatched to a report of a house fire that day. Police were sent to deal with a report of an armed male at the fire scene. Reserve Officer Robert Libke (DPSST #51035) of the Oregon City Police Department was shot in the head by a man lurking around the house fire which he had set.

Libke, a four-year veteran reserve officer, died the next day despite undergoing surgery at Legacy Emanuel Medical Center. The gunman shot and killed himself after Clackamas County Sheriff's SWAT team and police from neighboring cities joined Oregon City officers. Officer Libke was transported to Emanuel Hospital in Portland where he died from his injuries on November 4, 2013.

Officer Libke, age 41, left behind a wife and unborn child. He served as a reserve officer with the Oregon City Police Department since 2009, and was highly regarded both in his personal and professional life. Officer Libke grew up in Portland and graduated from Marshall High School in 1991. He worked as a general supervisor at Evraz Oregon Steel in Portland.

Oregon City Police Chief Jim Band, who worked directly with Libke in situations ranging from community outreach to crises, could speak with familiarity and authority of Officer Libke's contribution to the department and the community.

"He was an outstanding officer and a great friend to many of our employees," Band said. "He made us proud to wear a uniform because of the way he did his job."

Band explained that Libke intervened in a rapidly changing crisis, after gunman Lawrence Cambra, 88, already had set his own house on fire and was banging on a neighbor's back door to be let in, clutching a handgun. "I consider Rob's intervention in the case saved lives," Band said. Band posthumously awarded Libke a Medal of Valor, Purple Heart,

Distinguished Service Medal and the Chief's Medal of Merit. Officer Libke will be the 180th officer to be honored on the state's memorial on May 6, 2014 in Salem.