

DEAN BURDICK SERVICE TO SURVIVORS AWARD

Over the past seven years since the Oregon Fallen Badge Foundation was founded, we have met many amazing and wonderful people with huge hearts who have a desire to honor our fallen and selflessly serve their surviving families and agencies. Without a doubt, no one embodied that description better than Deputy Dean Burdick of the Tillamook County Sheriff's Office.

Dean was a member of our Line of Duty Death Response Team who served in our logistics section. For those of you who knew Dean, you know that he could not sit still. Or even stand still. Which was great when we were on a deployment and needed someone to get something, because Dean was always on the move and would happily go wherever he was needed to get whatever was needed. Dean also had a genuine and outgoing personality that won him friends very easily, and it helped him get the supplies we needed whenever we needed them...and then some. If we needed four cases of water, Dean returned with eight and a couple cases of Kleenex because he'd made friends with the store owner who gave more than was requested.

Dean's greatest attribute that made us love him so much was his enormous heart. At the end of each night on a deployment, a group of us would sit around and chat to unwind, and Dean would ask the same question. "Have I done enough for them?" It wasn't about us. It was about him. It was about them. Them being the surviving family of the fallen officer we were serving. Dean was all in, and it showed. Dean cared so much for everyone around him, especially those who had experienced the ultimate tragedy.

We lost Dean on May 14, 2017 following a brave and valiant fight against cancer. Dean was more than a friend; Dean was an integral part of our team and a loyal servant to the police survivor community in Oregon. We miss him dearly, and we know Dean would be having the time of his life if he was here tonight with a Coors Light in hand ready to request every possible George Strait song the band knows once the dancing starts.

Dean's family is here with us tonight. We welcome Yvonne, Kristina, John, Jessica, Melissa, and Cassandra to the ball. Thank you so much for sharing Dean with us. We are blessed to have known him, and we are now blessed to know you and count you as part of our family. Tonight, with Dean's family here, we are presenting the inaugural Dean Burdick Service to Survivors award. This is one small way we can honor Dean's memory and the legacy of service to the police survivor community he leaves behind.

The Dean Burdick Service to Survivors Award will be given to an individual who has distinguished themselves with their selfless service to the Oregon police survivor community by giving much of themselves for those who have lost so much. It is my distinct honor and privilege to announce the inaugural recipient of this award.

On the evening of February 26, 1993, Multnomah County Sheriff's Office Reserve Sergeant Scott Collins and Reserve Deputy Mark Whitehead were on patrol on Interstate 84 when their patrol car was struck head on by a drunk driver. Sergeant Collins and Deputy Whitehead were killed instantly. Deputy Whitehead was just 23 years old and had served the citizens of

Multnomah County for approximately 18 months at the time of his line of duty death. He was survived by his parents and his brother.

Deputy Whitehead's father, Jim Whitehead, was a counselor at Reynolds High School, and he channeled his grief into joining with the parents of Sergeant Collins and the widow of Washington County Sheriff's Office Deputy Robert Talburt in founding the Oregon Chapter of Concerns of Police Survivors in 1994. Since that time, Jim has served in multiple capacities both at a state and national level of Concerns of Police Survivors, including distinguished service on the National Board of Concerns of Police Survivors as the trustee for the Northwest Region. Jim currently serves as the executive director of our state chapter.

Jim passionately advocates for his fellow survivors. He has not shied away from having difficult but necessary conversations to ensure the treatment of his fellow survivors consistently improves. He works long hours in the spring of each year ensuring that survivors from Oregon have all they need during the annual state memorial service and if they are attending National Police Week.

Over the past 25 years, Jim has tracked down countless survivors in our state to ensure that they knew that they were not alone and the services of C.O.P.S. were available to them. For many survivors, Jim was the first face from C.O.P.S. they saw, and his patient ear and calm, compassionate demeanor has given many the ability to trust and rely on this organization. Jim has spent hundreds, if not thousands, of hours on the road traveling the state around to make sure that agencies knew of C.O.P.S. and the vital work this organization does for our survivors, which includes those of us who were coworkers of fallen officers.

Jim is now retired as a counselor, but that counselor hat still comes on at times. It's not a state secret that his e-mail address is counselor234@msn.com, and it's still a role Jim takes very seriously. He maintains the strict confidence needed of a counselor so that those who are struggling and need support can speak in the freest of senses without fear of judgment or disclosure. He takes on that counselor role quite often with the officers he works around, and he makes sure we are taking care of ourselves and makes himself available to us when we need him.

For these reasons, it was a no brainer to name Jim as the inaugural recipient of this award. Jim embodies the spirit behind this award and then some. He is a man who chose not to let tragedy define him, but rather chose to channel tragedy into service to others. He is a man who is defined by his courage, commitment, compassion, and conviction. He is a big part of the reason why we are all here tonight, because it was his commitment to his fellow survivors that helped build the partnership between the Oregon Fallen Badge Foundation and Oregon chapter of Concerns of Police Survivors that will likely outlive all of us in this room.

Tonight, it is an honor to present this inaugural Dean Burdick Service to Survivors Award to our dear friend, Jim Whitehead.