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Laughter, tears flow with the memories

Mary Young + MORE
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A box of tissues was on the dining room table in the Centre Township home of Michelle and Paul B. Moyer.

The family had gathered to talk about her son, Kyle D. Pagerly, and the type of man he had become before he was killed June 29 in a shootout with a suspect being arrested.

These are some of the memories that drew their tears and their smiles.

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A hurried wedding

Alecia was a little upset about missing out on a fairy tale wedding because Kyle was expecting to be deployed.

Then her mother, Donna Bird of Spring Township, shared some wisdom.

"Every girl dreams of the white dress," Alecia said. "But my mom said that she had a huge wedding but didn't have the guy I had.

"She said, 'You're going to have an amazing marriage. The wedding doesn't matter.'"

The Pop Tart incident

Kyle, as a fitness fanatic, thought everyone should be active and healthy. Seeing his wife eat a toaster pastry was more than he could bear.

"I thought we were going to get into a fistfight that day," Alecia said. "We had just found out we were pregnant. He tried to grab the thing right out of my hand.

"I never ate anything so fast in my life."

How Jynx got his name

Jynx wasn't Kyle's first K-9 partner. He named his first German shepherd Pierce because he always wanted a dog with that name. But Pierce flunked training.

The second dog was named Bennie. Kyle was thinking about renaming him.

Alecia suggested Backup, but Kyle wanted a one-syllable name.

Kyle wondered if he should call the dog Pierce.

"I said it might jinx him," Alecia said.

That name stuck.

A popular guy

Children were especially attracted to Jynx, and Kyle often did demonstrations for them and let them pet the dog when he wasn't on duty.

Alecia said a little girl about 3 or 4 years old ran up to Kyle at a pet expo and jumped into his arms.

"He loved it," she said. "The mom came over and said, 'We're teaching her police officers are our friends.' It made his day.

"He hated that some parents use police officers as a threat. He said it makes them grow up thinking they're the enemy."

The jokes are on Kyle

Kyle didn't like his picture on the baseball card Sheriff Eric J. Weaknecht had printed of Kyle and Jynx, so other deputies would cover his desk with them or hang them up around the office.

Someone "elfed" the photo, a trick anyone can do via the Internet.

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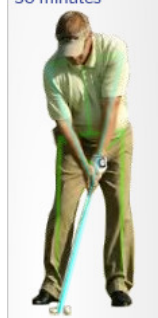
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"When he was just Kyle, he was laid back and go with the flow," Alecia said.

Gifts that never stop giving

Kyle gave Michelle a flag from Kosovo signed by the members of his Army unit.

On it Kyle wrote: "Mom. Thank you for everything. You have helped me so much. I'm so happy to have you in my life. My deployment wouldn't have been the same without you."

Kyle gave Paul an old fire alarm box he had gotten for himself.

On it he wrote: "You were not only a teacher but a mentor. You showed me the way and led me in the right direction. You showed me the beast, and taught me to tame the devil. Thank you."

Kyle's wife, Alecia, found love notes in the house, in her purse, on the windshield of her car or other unexpected places.

"I think every gift I have from him is written on," she said.

Signs of Kyle

The song, "If I Die Young," was played at Kyle's memorial service.

Part of the lyrics are: "If I die young, Lord make me a rainbow. I'll shine down on my mother. She'll know I'm safe with you."

It rained right before Weaknecht was to throw out the first pitch at a baseball game at Owl's Field in Spring Township, where money was being raised for Kyle's memorial fund.

"There was this bright rainbow over the field," Alecia said. "That was definitely him."

Someone gave Alecia wind chimes with a note that read, "Every time you hear the chimes, that's a message of love from Kyle."

"I had Paul hang them up," Alecia said. "The day before the service I had not heard them once. After the service, I brought Kyle's urn home. Five minutes and they went and didn't stop. I've heard them ever since."

"My mom said he just wanted to be home."

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