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Remembering Kyle Pagerly: Loved ones reflect on remarkable life

Mary Young + MORE Reading Eagle

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Everything in life was going Kyle D. Pagerly's way.

Alecia, the wife the deputy sheriff adored, was pregnant with their first child.

His K-9 partner, Jynx, had Pagerly's back 24 hours a day.

When Jynx demonstrated his skills, children and adults adored the man and his German shepherd.

Kyle, a fitness fanatic, never stopped trying to inspire others, especially people with disabilities, to be active.

He started a bicycle patrol in his part-time job with the Western Berks Regional police, loving the training that taught him how to fall off a bicycle properly and ride up steps.

He had just been certified as an animal cruelty investigator.

He was one day short of 14 years as a volunteer firefighter with the Spring Township Fire Department.

It all ended abruptly June 29, when Kyle was killed in a shootout with a suspect being served with an arrest warrant. Kyle was 28.

He and Jynx are credited with saving the lives of other members of the warrants task force that night.

His parents, Michelle Moyer of Centre Township and David J. Pagerly of Spring Township, said they had no clue in Kyle's youth that he would be a hero one day.

Kyle was such an active youngster, though, that Michelle attached a coil from her wrist to his to keep him from running off when they went away.

Between his junior and senior years in high school, he went to Army boot camp.

After graduation he enrolled in a graphic arts school in York County.

"No sooner did the student loans kick in, he was deployed," Michelle said. "He went to Kosovo and Iraq."

When he came home, he completed training at the Reading Police Academy at Alvernia University.

Alecia, 28, and Kyle, both 2001 graduates of Wilson High School, popped in and out of each other's lives for a few years. They started dating in 2005.

The first time she felt his love was when he had his wisdom teeth extracted and woke up in the recovery room, she said.

"He was scanning the room," Alecia recalled. "He focused on me. His whole face lit up. He said, 'I love waking up to you.'"

"We had just booked the church for the wedding when he found out he was getting deployed again. We called our families on Wednesday and said, 'We're getting married Friday.'"

By then he was a deputy sheriff.

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Courtesy of Michelle Moyer and Alecia Pagerly

Berks County Deputy Sheriff Kyle D. Pagerly on the job with his K-9 partner, Jynx, in a family photo.

Susan L. Angstadt on Facebook

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The deployment that was supposed to take place in January 2008 never happened because of a mix-up in paperwork.

Kyle was married and home from the Army to stay.

When Kyle started serving warrants, Alecia was concerned about his safety.

She said she asked him if he could work behind a desk one day a week so she wouldn't have to worry about him every day.

When a deputy sheriff showed up on her doorstep June 29, her first thought was, "Why did Kyle park across the street?"

Then, she realized it wasn't the vehicle he drove.

"It was a strange thought pattern," she said of her trip to Lehigh Valley Hospital near Allentown. "Every possible scenario goes through your head.

"It was the worst night of my life. Your best friend, your husband, your hero. All those people are taken from you at once."

Since Kyle's death, Alecia has been on leave from her job as an operations analyst for Penske Corp. in Green Hills.

"Immediately after it happened, I don't think I would have gotten out of bed if I didn't have to take care of the baby," said Alecia, who is due to give birth in January.

Michelle said that when the baby does something Kyle did, such as making a face or doing a crazy dance in the living room, she'll know she still has part of Kyle with her.

"My line for that little one is going to be, 'Your daddy was my hero.' The baby will know what his or her dad was made of."

"Kyle would have been an awesome father," David said.

To make sure the child knows about his father, Alecia is making scrapbooks of everything that has happened and collecting video of events such as his memorial service and fundraisers held to help her and provide money for causes that Kyle supported.

Jynx, now retired, watches over Alecia.

The uniform Kyle wore the day before he was killed is on the floor of a closet in their Cumru Township home.

Jynx pokes his nose in it and sometimes curls up around it.

"Jynx was Kyle's partner, his best friend, his son," Alecia said. "They spent 24 hours a day together. Kyle loved him."

The family views the overwhelming community support they're receiving as proof of what a special person Kyle was.

"There were so many times he did something little for somebody," Alecia said. "He would stand there for five minutes holding a door, waiting for people to go in. He said you can help people every day."

She said she can't remember a single day when she wasn't proud of him.

"A lot of people are mourning for the past and the memories," Alecia said. "Because he was so young, we'll mourn for what will never be."

Contact **Mary Young**: 610-478-6292 or myoung@readingeagle.com.

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