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## From near, far many came to mourn, praise slain deputy

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Rob Uhrig was icing down bottles of water, iced tea and lemonade Wednesday in the bed of a pickup truck parked in a driveway at the Sovereign Center.

He was preparing for the memorial service for slain Berks County Deputy Sheriff Kyle D. Pagerly.

The water was for the 3,000 to 4,000 bagpipers, police, ambulance personnel, firefighters, deputies and citizens who had come from all over the region to pay their respects to the fallen hero.

Uhrig, 23, who works in the event set-up department at the center, said he lives two houses away from Pagerly.

He said he didn't know the slain deputy but remembers seeing him coming and going with his K-9 partner, Jynx.

"The night he got shot my girlfriend and I were swimming in the backyard when all of a sudden we saw all these lights and cops in front of his house," Uhrig said. "They've been there ever since watching over his wife (Alecia)."

Everyone who knew Pagerly used the same superlatives and praise in describing him.

Sheriff Eric J. Weaknecht said losing Pagerly was a tremendous blow to his entire department.

"He was an extraordinary individual," Weaknecht said.

"When Kyle said he was going to do something, you could count on it," said deputy sheriff chaplain Brian Boyer.

District Attorney John T. Adams spoke for many.

"It's a sad day for our county and for law enforcement in our county," Adams said. "There has been wonderful support from the community for the family and the sheriff's department. I just hope this is the last ceremony like this that we ever had to attend."

On hand wearing black T-shirts in tribute to Pagerly, with the phrase "In Memory of Our Fallen Hero," was a group of more than 30 motorcyclists who had ridden with Pagerly in recent years and came in a procession from Lower Heidelberg Township.

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"This is just heartbreaking," said group member Terri Hasker of Wernersville. "He did so much for the community."

### Some came a distance

About 1,000 law enforcement officers - many from outside Berks and Pennsylvania - attended.

Even law enforcement officers who don't know each other have a bond, said Cpl. Al Fazio of the West Norriton Township Police Department in Montgomery County who came on his day off.

"He's a family member," Fazio said of Pagerly. "He's a brother."

Cpl. Thomas Momme of the Lower Providence Township police, also in Montgomery, said deputy sheriffs, municipal officers, state police, federal agents, Game Commission officers and all types of law enforcement belong to the same group.

"It's a fraternal order," he said. "It's a way of life."

Maybe even stronger is the connection among K-9 officers, dozens of whom attended the service.

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**Deputy Sheriff Kyle D. Pagerly's K-9 partner, Jynx, during the ceremony Wednesday at the Spring Township Fire Department station.**

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The parking lot across from the center was lined with their vehicles, including those from Harrisburg and Boston.

Whitemarsh Township police Officer Matt Stadulis and his K-9 partner, Brock, traveled to Reading with a contingent of K-9 teams from Montgomery County.

The sense of fraternity among K-9 officers is more intense because they are an even smaller brotherhood within the law enforcement community, he said. They often train together and work together.

"There aren't many of us," Stadulis said. "We get different types of calls and we like to help one another and police officers in other departments who need us."

#### Dignitaries weigh in

After the ceremony, Judge Stephen B. Lieberman said Pagerly's death saddened him.

"He was a wonderful young man that gave our community and our country and especially his family the best that he had to offer," Lieberman said. "My prayers remain with his family."

Commissioner Christian Y. Leinbach said Pagerly was a hero in the truest sense of the word.

"Today is about Kyle Pagerly and his brave service to his county, the commonwealth and his country," Leinbach said. "It's hard to believe that at 28 years old he has accomplished what most men don't accomplish in a lifetime."

Commissioner Kevin S. Barnhardt said he felt an overwhelming sense of grief during the somber service, but was heartened by the turnout and the response from the community.

"This really puts a stamp on the notion that we take our law enforcement officers for granted," Barnhardt said. "Every day when we go about our business we should try to remember the dangers they face in the work they do for us."

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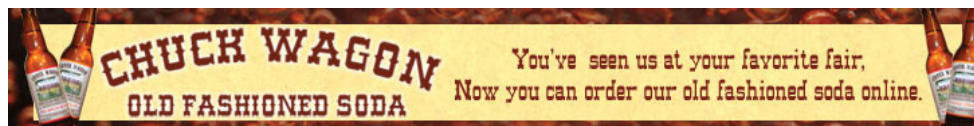
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