



WSLEM and 10-99 Foundation

Wednesday, March 24, 2004

Those who honor the fallen:

Chelan County business recognized for its help to slain deputy's family

SeaTac, Wash. -- A small, Central Washington community came together to help the family of one of their fallen officers. The outcome was more than anyone expected: an entire wing of a residence was added onto an existing structure in order to accommodate the growing family of slain Chelan County Sheriff's Deputy Saul Gallegos.

Deputy Gallegos was killed June 26, 2003, following a traffic stop, contact and struggle with a known offender. A naturalized U. S. citizen, Deputy Gallegos was returned home to Mexico where he was laid to rest following a memorial service at Chelan High School.

During ceremonies held Saturday evening (March 20), the Lake Chelan Building Supply Company was honored with the Community Spirit Award by the Washington State Law Enforcement Memorial and 10-99 Foundation. The award was presented by Ms. Gayle Frink-Schulz, Executive Director, and Mr. Frank Kampsen, President of the foundation, during the sixth annual Law Enforcement Memorial Ball and Auction held at the Double Tree Hotel.

Mr. Brett LaMar accepted the award on behalf of the company and the Chelan community.

Pausing occasionally to control his emotions, Deputy Dale England, Chelan County Sheriff's Office, spoke briefly before the award was presented to Mr. LaMar.

"Those of us in Chelan knew that Saul was always engaged in some type of home improvement project," said England. "Saul was such an asset to our community and his untimely death struck us all very hard. We knew that Saul was planning to expand his three-bedroom home so that he and Maria's four children would have room to romp.

“It started as an idea to help make Saul’s wish come true. What we didn’t realize was the generosity of the community and the extent that the project would take on an entire new aspect.

“Shortly before Maria and the family left for Mexico, we asked her if it would be OK if a little extra room was added to the house while she was gone for approximately six weeks. Maria agreed to the idea, trusting us with the project.

“A local architect provided the plans, which at some point grew from a single family room to also include a bathroom, two additional bedrooms over the existing garage and a deck on the rear of the house. A most welcome surprise, though, was the same-day approval for the building permit!

“Cash donations covered most of the outside expenses. Materials and labor were donated or coordinated and the project came together very rapidly. Police officers and Sheriff’s deputies from various local agencies, community residents, neighbors and professional laborers all showed-up to get the addition done. Several paint and carpet samples were sent to Maria by overnight delivery, for her approval as the project progressed.

“As Maria and the children returned from Mexico and were turning into the driveway, we were still at it... painting the exterior of the house by flashlight! Maria was able to pick-out the final trimmings and help with the finishing touches.”

Mr. LaMar received a standing ovation from more than 650 people attending the banquet. But LaMar acknowledged that his company’s receipt of the award was, in actuality, for the entire Chelan community.

“As it turned out, this effort was not just for Maria and the children,” said LaMar. “It helped all of us involved in the project to cope with Saul’s death. The most impressive part is not that it actually happened, but that it did so within a community of less than 5,000 residents and with no large corporate sponsors.”

In presenting the award, Ms. Frink-Schulz explained that Lake Chelan Building Supply is not large by any means. “It’s a small, two-store family business, meeting the lumber and hardware needs of the communities of Lake Chelan and Manson. However without the company’s support, both financial and organizational, none of this effort would have materialized. The list of local businesses and people that contributed to the project numbers more than 200. Each and every contribution has been appreciated greatly. We recognize Lake Chelan Building and Supply as the catalyst for this project that honored one of Washington’s fallen.”

The Washington State Law Enforcement Memorial (WSLEM) and 10-99 Foundation was established to address the special needs of law enforcement widows, children and parents, by providing specific needs assistance and personal and family counseling together with financial support. Law enforcement officers severely disabled in the line-of-duty are also eligible for assistance from the Foundation. 10-99 is a statewide code for “officer in need of assistance.”

One of the means of funding the Foundation is a specialized license plate with the WSLEM logo – based upon the same idea as the state’s university and professional sports license plates.

Persons interested in obtaining the unique Washington State Law Enforcement Memorial license plate for their vehicle should complete and mail the intent form. The form may be obtained from the WSLEM web site: www.wslem.com.

For further information, please contact:

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