



Summaries of Officers Feloniously Killed

Note: Occasionally, the Law Enforcement Officers Killed and Assaulted Program is unable to publish summaries concerning some officers who are feloniously killed in the line of duty. These situations may stem from insufficient information, gag orders issued by the courts, or other unusual circumstances. However, all available information is included where applicable in the data tables.

Midwest

Late in the evening, a 39-year-old deputy sheriff was shot and killed as he was in pursuit of a wanted person. The victim deputy, a veteran officer with more than 9 years of experience, was at a gas station with another deputy when they recognized an arriving vehicle as belonging to a wanted suspect who had fled from another agency earlier that day. The deputies' body cameras and the in-car dash camera captured the two deputies approaching the suspect on foot to make an arrest. As they advanced, the suspect pulled a handgun from his waistband, pointed it at the deputies, jumped in his car, and fled. Both deputies began pursuit in their patrol vehicles, with lights and sirens activated, and other units quickly joined the chase. The victim deputy was in the lead pursuing the fleeing suspect, who began firing at the deputies with a 9 mm semiautomatic handgun. One of the rounds fired went through the deputy's windshield and fatally struck him in the front of his head. As the victim deputy, who was wearing body armor, fell forward, he pressed the brake, and his vehicle came to a halt without crashing. The other pursuing officers did not realize he was shot, but thought he was having difficulties with his vehicle. A passing motorist stopped and found the wounded deputy. About 5 minutes later, the 35-year-old suspect, who was under the influence of amphetamines/methamphetamines, drove into a field and got stuck. He then fired upon the pursuing officers, and they returned fire, justifiably killing him. The victim deputy succumbed to his wound the next day.

On an autumn morning, a police officer was dispatched to an area of a local highway to investigate a stolen vehicle. The 36-year-old veteran officer, who had more than 14 years of law enforcement experience, located the vehicle at a nearby convenience store. Closed-

circuit television camera footage showed the officer exited his patrol car and approached the vehicle when the driver fired three shots from an automatic handgun at him. Two rounds struck his patrol vehicle, and the third round fatally struck the officer in the neck/throat, well above his body armor. Arriving officers found the victim officer on the ground near the front of the stolen vehicle. The 31-year-old suspect was arrested and charged with First-Degree Murder, Aggravated Discharge of Firearm at Peace Officer, Unlawful Possession of a Firearm by a Felon, Unlawful Possession of Stolen Firearm, and Offense Related to Motor Vehicles.

A 51-year-old sergeant was fatally shot while responding to a tactical situation, which began as a traffic stop. On a spring evening, a police officer attempted to conduct a traffic stop when the subject fled from the officer, resulting in a vehicle pursuit. The subject pulled over on the side of the road, exited his vehicle, and assaulted the officer. A deputy arrived on scene in time to see the officer retreating from the assailant with the suspect standing near the officer's patrol vehicle. The deputy drew his service weapon and commanded the subject to put his hands up. The subject did not comply; he returned to his vehicle and fled the area. The deputy subsequently located the subject at his residence.

Because of the subject's violent history, the deputy called for backup prior to entering the residence. Once backup arrived, the officers set up a perimeter around the subject's residence and tried to make verbal contact, but the subject did not respond. A family member of the subject arrived and advised the officers that the subject had access to firearms inside the residence. The family member tried to contact the subject but was unsuccessful.

The deputy then requested the assistance of two additional law enforcement agencies, one of which included a K-9 unit. Upon the arrival and briefing of the assisting officers, they cleared the garage area where two of the five officers remained to provide cover as the other three officers and K-9 prepared to clear the residence. Other law enforcement personnel maintained a perimeter around the outside of the residence. The deputy identified the group as law enforcement and notified the subject that they would be entering the residence if the subject did not make himself known.

As the officers began clearing the residence, the deputy made the announcement again. When the subject opened the door to the main floor, the officers could hear the subject's voice from inside, but they could not determine what he was saying. While on the staircase landing leading up to the main floor, the sergeant, a veteran with 27 years of law enforcement experience, encountered the subject who was just inside the doorway. As the sergeant, who was wearing body armor, shouted to the other officers that the subject had a firearm, the subject shot the sergeant with a 12-gauge, pump-action shotgun fatally in the front upper torso/chest and in the shoulder (upper torso) area. Immediately, the sergeant fell to the ground.

While a trooper attempted to pull the sergeant to safety, the suspect fired another round, striking the sergeant in the left leg. When the suspect reappeared in the doorway holding the shotgun, the officer with the K-9 unit fired two rounds at him, hitting the wall and forcing the suspect to retreat inside. That officer, the other entry officer, and the K-9 retreated to the basement for cover. The trooper, who had pulled the victim sergeant to safety, got him out of the residence and into an ambulance. The victim sergeant was transported to a local hospital, where he was pronounced dead.

Meanwhile, the suspect barricaded himself inside the residence and continued to verbally threaten the responding officers. After attempting to negotiate with the suspect's surrender, a tactical team in a wheeled, armored personnel carrier entered the suspect's residence. Although the suspect fired multiple rounds and struck the carrier's windshield, the tactical team returned fire with their service rifles, striking the suspect. Other tactical team members then took the suspect into custody. The suspect, who was reportedly under the influence of alcohol and marijuana, was transported to a hospital.

The 41-year-old suspect was arrested and charged with First-Degree Murder, Attempt to Commit Murder, and Assault on a Peace Officer.

On a late summer morning in the Midwest region, a 22-year-old police officer, who was in training and had only 2 months of law enforcement experience, was killed while assisting with the arrest of a subject with a felony warrant. An anonymous caller reported the whereabouts of a subject wanted regarding a shooting. Dispatchers located information about a felony warrant for a probation and parole violation before sending

officers to the reported location. Four officers responded to the reported residence where they found the garage door open and the subject inside. Officers gave verbal commands to the subject, but he did not comply. The subject drew a revolver from his pocket and fired one round from close range. The 22-year-old officer, who was wearing body armor, was struck in the front of the head and fell to the ground. One of the assisting officers returned fire, incapacitating the suspect. At the same time, another officer deployed his electronic control device. Officers called for additional units and transported the victim officer to a local hospital where he was pronounced dead. After officers secured the 33-year-old suspect and cleared the residence, EMTs attempted to render aid to the suspect but he died at the scene. The suspect, who was under the influence of an unknown drug/substance, had a criminal history that included a weapons violation.

South

On a fall night, a deputy was shot and killed after he answered a call for service from another deputy, who required emergency assistance with a domestic disturbance involving a person with a firearm. Body camera and in-car dash camera footage shows the first responding deputy and an officer arrived at the same time at the location of the domestic dispute. The deputy confronted the subject outside the subject's dimly lit residence. Upon seeing that the subject was holding a firearm against the side of his leg, the deputy and officer sought cover behind the officer's vehicle in the driveway. The officer used his radio to contact dispatchers to request additional backup. When backup officers arrived, the subject fired a 7.62-caliber semiautomatic rifle at the officers, and they backed their patrol vehicles down the driveway. The 30-year-old deputy, who had four years of law enforcement experience, arrived on scene and exited his patrol vehicle. As the deputy walked around the officer's vehicle, the suspect allegedly fired multiple rounds from approximately 20 feet away. Before the deputy could return fire, one of the rounds struck him in the front lower torso/abdomen below his body armor vest. The original responding deputy and officer placed the victim deputy into the officer's vehicle. The deputy conducted CPR on the victim deputy while the officer backed the vehicle down the driveway to safety. An ambulance met the officers and transported the victim deputy to a local hospital where he was pronounced dead. The 48-year-old suspect, who

was under the influence of alcohol at the time of the incident, was arrested the next day and charged with Murder.

It was approaching midnight in early autumn when a 29-year-old deputy sheriff was shot and killed while conducting a traffic stop at an intersection. The veteran deputy, who had six years of law enforcement experience, activated the lights on his patrol vehicle, and the subject pulled his vehicle to the side of the road. An in-car dash camera recorded the interaction between the deputy and the subject. The deputy approached the driver's side of the subject's vehicle and, after a short conversation, the deputy asked the subject to exit the vehicle. As the deputy grabbed the vehicle's door handle, the subject pulled a .40-caliber semiautomatic handgun from his waistband and shot the deputy in the front of the head. The deputy immediately fell to the ground. The suspect reached out of his vehicle and fired a second round, striking the deputy in the rear lower torso/back. Although the deputy wore body armor, the round entered below the deputy's vest. The suspect fled in his vehicle. Shortly thereafter, the suspect abandoned his vehicle and fled on foot. The officer was transported to a hospital where he died a few days later. During the 5-day manhunt for the suspect, a K-9 officer was also shot and injured. Law enforcement arrested the suspect, and he was charged with Murder and Aggravated Battery of a Police Dog.

A 48-year-old officer was killed while initiating an afternoon traffic stop in late winter. Body camera footage showed the veteran officer, who had 15 years of law enforcement experience, activated the lights on his patrol vehicle to conduct a traffic stop of a vehicle that matched the description of a man with a gun. The subject stopped for the officer, exited his vehicle prior to placing it in park, and suddenly began shooting at the front of the officer's vehicle with a 45 mm semiautomatic rifle. The suspect fired a total of 27 rounds from approximately 20 feet away and moved towards the officer, who was sitting in the driver's side of his patrol vehicle. The officer, who was wearing body armor, attempted to use his service weapon but had difficulty retrieving it. The officer was unable to exit his vehicle prior to being shot multiple times in the side head, shoulder (upper torso) area, and front legs. The suspect's rounds circumvented the officer's body

armor and entered through the armhole or shoulder area, striking the officer. The suspect then fled on foot between houses and into a field. After receiving several calls that reported a man with a gun crawling through a field, officers from local departments responded and set a perimeter around the suspect's location. The suspect failed to comply with commands to drop his rifle. As the suspect began to raise his rifle, an officer shot him twice. The suspect fell to the ground onto his back, rolled over, and was reaching for his rifle when he was justifiably killed by an officer. Investigators speculate this was a suicide-by-cop incident. The 29-year-old suspect was known for using and possessing controlled substances, and his criminal history included an arrest for a weapons violation.

A 40-year veteran of law enforcement working with a sheriff's department in the southern region was shot while responding to a domestic call. Around dusk in late fall, the 78-year-old officer was dispatched with a deputy chief to a residence where a woman alleged her ex-husband was enroute to kill her. Upon the deputies' arrival, the pair was ambushed while still inside their department-issued vehicle. A subject fired one round from a shotgun through the driver's side window of the vehicle, hitting the chief deputy in the right forearm and the deputy sheriff in his neck/throat and front upper torso/chest. The chief deputy was transported to an area medical center and treated for his injury. The deputy sheriff succumbed to the fatal shot to his neck/throat while being flown to the hospital. The 52-year-old offender, who had no known criminal history, was found dead at the scene from a self-inflicted gunshot wound.

On a cloudy winter afternoon in the southern region, a 57-year-old lieutenant was shot and killed while attempting to conduct a welfare check on a suicidal individual. An individual had called in to report that a member of their family was holding a knife and threatening to commit suicide. A sheriff's deputy and the lieutenant, an eight-year law enforcement veteran, were dispatched separately to the location. While enroute, the lieutenant was advised that the suicidal subject had an outstanding felony warrant from another county. Upon arrival, bystanders informed the officers that the subject, armed with a knife, was walking down an adjacent street toward his residence where they

believed he had a firearm. The officers drove their marked patrol vehicles separately down the street but were unable to locate the subject. The lieutenant turned his patrol vehicle out of view as the deputy stopped to question a bystander. While speaking, the deputy heard screaming and gunshots. He drove in that direction and found an individual matching the description of the subject chasing a female down the street with a shotgun. The suspect fired a shot in the direction of the female and then directed his attention to the deputy. The deputy took cover behind his patrol vehicle and retrieved his department-issued rifle. He then shouted verbal commands to the suspect who responded, "You'll have to kill me." When the suspect pointed the shotgun toward the deputy, the deputy fired his rifle and struck the suspect in his lower abdomen. He fell to the ground and dropped the shotgun. The deputy radioed dispatch that the subject was down and then radioed the lieutenant to request help in handcuffing the suspect. The lieutenant failed to respond to two calls from the deputy. The suspect was shouting expletives at the deputy and continued to reach toward his shotgun. With his service weapon drawn, the deputy approached the suspect, kicked away the suspect's weapon, and attempted to apprehend him, but he resisted. With the help of a bystander, the deputy handcuffed the suspect. The deputy then went looking for the lieutenant's patrol vehicle. He located it and approached the driver's side door and found that the first shots he heard had been directed at the lieutenant's patrol vehicle. The lieutenant's body camera revealed that he had returned fire with five rounds directed at the suspect from the driver's seat of his patrol vehicle, but the suspect had shot the lieutenant, who was wearing body armor, in the front of the head. The victim lieutenant was flown to a medical center where he succumbed to the injury hours later. The 30-year-old suspect was treated and released from the hospital and was charged with Capital Murder. The suspect had a criminal history that included aggravated assault (excluding officers) and domestic violence.

On a summer morning, a 54-year-old senior police officer was killed while serving an arrest warrant in the southern region. Several officers went to the subject's residence and knocked on the front door. Body camera footage shows a female answered the door and confirmed the subject was inside. Officers called out to the subject and asked him to turn himself in to take care of his warrants. As officers were trying to contact the subject,

he opened fire with an illegally modified, fully automatic 9 mm handgun, striking two officers, who were both wearing body armor. The first officer, a veteran of law enforcement with more than 30 years' experience, was struck in the front upper torso/chest (through the armhole of his vest), front legs, and fatally in the front of his head. The second officer was shot twice in the lower abdomen below his vest and survived his injuries. Three other officers on scene returned fire. The suspect attempted to escape through the backdoor of the residence but was stopped by an additional officer who fired at him as he exited the door. The suspect retreated into the residence and exited the front with a semiautomatic rifle, where he fired additional rounds at officers. Officers returned fire, justifiably killing the suspect. The 30-year-old suspect was a known dealer and possessor of a controlled substance and was wanted on a felony warrant related to narcotics. His prior criminal history included arrests for aggravated assault (excluding officers), domestic violence, drug law violation, and a weapons violation.

A 38-year-old sergeant with a sheriff's office in the southern region was killed while assisting another law enforcement agency whose officers were under attack. In the afternoon on a summer day, deputies with the sheriff's office responded to a residence where someone inside had been shooting at officers from a nearby law enforcement agency. The sergeant, a member of the tactical unit with the sheriff's office, responded and began to remove officers from the scene's inner perimeter. An individual inside the residence suddenly fired multiple shots from a .220-caliber semiautomatic rifle in rapid succession from inside the residence. Six rounds struck the body-armor clad veteran sergeant, who had eight years of law enforcement experience, fatally in the neck/throat. He fell to the ground, and assisting officers returned fire with 23 rounds. One round struck the suspect causing him to retreat. The 22-year-old suspect was eventually taken into custody that day and was charged with Capital Murder, Aggravated Assault on a Public Servant, and Hold for the U.S. Marshal. The suspect had a criminal history that included aggravated assault (excluding officers) and domestic violence. The victim sergeant was evacuated from the scene and taken to a nearby hospital where he succumbed to his injuries.

West

In the winter of 2021, a 65-year-old medically retired deputy sheriff died from injuries he sustained more than four decades ago while performing an investigative activity. In the early morning hours of a summer day in 1980, a then-25-year-old deputy sheriff, who was on a burglary prevention patrol, heard a broadcast on his radio of a shooting at a local bar. The deputy, who had nearly five years of law enforcement experience, checked in with dispatch and was later directed to travel a section of roadway for the suspect's vehicle. The deputy pulled off the roadway at an interchange and saw a person leaning against a garbage can in a dimly lit graveled parking area nearby. The deputy pulled into the parking area—about 20 feet away from the subject—and attempted to contact dispatchers, but there was too much radio traffic. The subject began to walk toward the deputy's patrol vehicle. The deputy opened his door and asked the subject three times to remove his hands from his pockets. The subject did not comply, so the deputy exited his patrol vehicle, leaving the door open. He drew his service weapon and attempted to contact dispatchers using a different radio channel but failed again because of too much radio traffic. By this time, the subject was at the left front fender of the patrol vehicle when he pulled a .32-Magnum revolver handgun out of his jacket pocket and aimed it at the deputy. The subject and the deputy fired a single round from their weapons simultaneously. The deputy was shot in the neck/throat, and he fell to the ground with his legs partially under the vehicle. The suspect then stood over the deputy and fired a second round, striking the deputy's rear lower torso/back. The suspect kicked the deputy's service weapon away, got into the deputy's patrol vehicle, and drove over the deputy's legs while fleeing the scene. Once the suspect left the parking area, a bystander approached the deputy and asked what he could do to help. The deputy told the bystander to get his service weapon then call an ambulance. The deputy was transported to a local hospital for treatment. The 31-year-old suspect was later arrested and charged with Attempt to Commit Murder, Assault in the First Degree, Assault in the Second Degree, Felon in Possession of a Firearm, Unauthorized Use of a Vehicle, Hit and Run Injury/Fatal. Shortly after the incident, the injured deputy retired from law enforcement due to medical complications from the incident. He died 41 years later.

Shortly after noon on a late spring day, a 43-year-old sergeant was shot and killed during a foot pursuit following an attempted traffic stop. A deputy had attempted to stop a motorcyclist for failing to yield at a traffic stop. However, the motorcyclist refused to pull over and the deputy pursued in his vehicle. The subject eventually abandoned his motorcycle and fled on foot through a residential area. The deputy parked his vehicle, exited, and ran after the subject. The deputy gave verbal commands for the subject to stop, but he did not comply. The sergeant, who was a 17-year-veteran of law enforcement, arrived on the scene to assist in the foot pursuit. The sergeant, who was wearing body armor, located the suspect and attempted to detain him. As the two struggled, the suspect pulled out a semiautomatic handgun and shot the sergeant in the side of the head. The suspect then fired at two other deputies as they arrived at the scene. The deputies returned fire and justifiably killed the 29-year-old suspect, who was on probation and wanted on a felony warrant. The victim sergeant was taken to a local hospital, where he died a short time later.

A 46-year-old trooper was killed during an attempt to end a vehicle pursuit shortly after noon on a summer day in the southwest. As the trooper, a law enforcement veteran with 13 years of experience, stepped out from behind his cover to attempt to place a tire deflation device over the far outside portion of a freeway, the suspect steered left across multiple lanes of traffic and struck the trooper with his vehicle. The trooper, who was wearing body armor, sustained multiple fatal injuries as he went through the windshield of the suspect's vehicle. Responding officers received authorization before ramming the suspect's vehicle, which disabled it. The suspect attempted to take the firearm from the victim trooper's duty side holster, and officers justifiably shot and killed the suspect. The injured trooper died days later in the hospital. At the time of the incident, the 60-year-old suspect was wanted for a carjacking.

Around noon on a winter day in the western region, a 28-year-old patrol officer was shot and killed while performing a high-risk traffic stop. During the traffic stop, the officer, a veteran of law enforcement with more than six years' experience, asked the subject to exit the vehicle. As the subject stepped out of his vehicle, he produced a .223-caliber semiautomatic rifle and fired at the patrol officer as the officer approached the back of

the subject's vehicle. The officer ducked and fell onto his back. The suspect ran around the back of his vehicle and fired several more rounds at the officer, who was wearing body armor, striking him in the neck/throat, shoulder (upper torso) area, front upper torso/chest, rear lower torso/back, and arms/hands. Before running back to the front of the vehicle, the suspect shot the officer in the head from point-blank range. The officer died as a result of the wounds he sustained. Both his in-car dash camera and body camera captured the incident. The suspect then fled the scene in his vehicle before additional officers arrived. In total, five agencies joined the search and chase of the suspect. At several locations along the interstate, the suspect and law enforcement officers engaged one another with firearms. An officer used a pursuit intervention technique to end the chase 38 miles east of where the suspect had killed the patrol officer. When the suspect exited the vehicle, he began shooting at the pursuing officers. Officers returned fire, justifiably killing the suspect. One pursuing officer was shot and was airlifted to a trauma hospital where he was treated for non-life-threatening injuries and released. The 39-year-old suspect was a known drug dealer with a criminal history that included a drug law violation.

Late one winter night in the western region, a 31-year-old deputy sheriff was fatally shot while attempting to apprehend a burglary suspect who, after a vehicle pursuit and crash, had barricaded himself in his car. The veteran deputy—who had more than 6 years of law enforcement experience—was among several deputies and a K-9 officer present at the scene. Deputies had a ballistic shield and used a baton to smash the vehicle's back window. Once the glass was cleared, another deputy sent the K-9 officer through the back window. From inside the vehicle, the suspect fired one round at the dog from a .40-caliber semiautomatic handgun. The deputy sheriff and another deputy approached the suspect's open driver's door, and the suspect immediately opened fire on them. The 31-year-old deputy returned fire with one round from his service weapon but was fatally shot in the neck/throat above his body armor. The second deputy was hit several times and was critically wounded but survived the attack. The K-9 officer was fatally injured. The suspect fired nine rounds in all. Assisting deputies returned fire, striking and justifiably killing the 46-year-old suspect. The suspect, who was on parole at the time of

the incident, had a criminal history that included aggravated assault (excluding officers), a drug law violation, and a weapons violation.

A 37-year-old detective was killed and another was injured while attempting to serve a felony search warrant on an individual in an apartment building. The event began in the early afternoon when officers conducted a search warrant service related to a string of recent commercial burglaries. Initially, a team of six officers and detectives surveilled the apartment for several hours hoping to contact the individual outside his apartment to try to minimize risk. After about five hours of surveillance and not seeing any movement in the apartment, the team attempted to serve the warrant. The apartment was on the second floor accessible only by a small stairway. The team walked up the stairs in a single file due to space constraints and knocked on the door without announcing they were the police. After waiting and not receiving an answer, the team attempted to open the door with a key provided by the property manager. However, the key did not work. The team attempted to call the individual with a telephone, but the subject didn't answer. The team then formally announced their presence for several minutes, but there was no response from inside the apartment. A detective used a battering ram to force open the door and then retreated. The 37-year-old detective, a law enforcement veteran who had 12 years of experience, was standing outside the doorway and used the door jamb for cover as he scanned the apartment. An individual inside the apartment fired a single shot from about 6 feet away from a 12-gauge pump-action shotgun loaded with birdshot. Birdshot struck the detective, who was wearing body armor, fatally on the right side of his head, causing him to fall to the ground. The rest of the team retreated down the stairway. During the retreat, another detective was struck in the upper right arm/shoulder and sustained a graze wound to his head. The suspect took the .223-caliber automatic rifle from the victim detective and used it to fire at detectives who had taken up positions of cover. Officers returned fire, and the suspect retreated into the apartment. Officers then regrouped and entered the apartment where they located the victim detective lying just outside the front door. He was pronounced deceased on the scene. Officers located the 35-year-old suspect inside the apartment; he had died by suicide. The suspect, who was known to use drugs and to be anti-law enforcement, had a previous criminal history record.

