

NEWSLETTER



In Loving Memory of Officer Vincent George Castellanos



Vincent George Castellanos was born June 22, 1981, in Ventura, California. He graduated from Golden Valley High School in Merced, California, in 1999. As a senior in High School, he enlisted in the United States Army (Delayed Entry Program) as an 11B, Infantryman.

On August 17, 1999, Vincent attended Basic Training at Fort Benning, Georgia. He graduated Basic and Advanced Individual Training in January of 2000. He served in the United States Army from August 17, 1999, until October 31, 2015.

In August of 2000, he volunteered to deploy to Kosovo, as part of "Task Force Falcon". He participated in the Kosovo Campaign from August 2000 to February 2001. In February 2003, he deployed with a Small Tactical Unit to Iraq. He served in the Iraq Campaign from February 2003 until February 2004. He deployed two more times to Iraq in support of the war. He deployed to Iraq from September 2005 to September of 2006 and again from September 2007 to December 2008. In February 2014, while stationed at Fort Hood Texas, his unit was tasked with supporting the South Korean Alliance, and was deployed to South Korea for nine months.

While in the United States Army, Vincent received numerous awards. He was awarded a Bronze Star, Army Commendation Medal with Valor Device, six additional Army Commendation Medals, and eight Army Achievement Medals. Vincent graduated from the United States Army Ranger, Airborne, Air Assault and Pathfinder School. He had also earned his Combat and Expert Infantryman's Badge. This is just a partial list of his training and awards.

After leaving the Military, Vincent continued to have a passion to serve. He chose to serve his community as a Police Officer. In December 2015, Vincent graduated from the Texoma Regional Police Academy in Denison Texas. While in the Police Academy, he was elected and served as the class President. He graduated as class Valedictorian, with a 98.5% class average. He also received the Physical Fitness Award. Vincent scored the highest in his class on the Texas Commission on Law Enforcement State Exam with a 91%.

Vincent was hired as an Officer with the Sherman Texas Police Department on November 9, 2015. He was granted a waiver from the Chief of Police and was allowed to try out for the Special Response Team, commonly known as SWAT. This position is normally reserved for Police Officers with at least two years of experience. Vincent passed the selection process and became a member of the team.



Officer Castellanos' family includes his wife Angelia and their 4 children: Julie, 12 years old, Vincent Jr., 9 years old, Sophie, 7 years old, and Lilly 21 months old.

Officer Castellanos died on Christmas Day after a year long battle with colon cancer.



This holiday season was difficult for the Sherman Police Department. The loss of Officer Vince Castellanos dramatically affected our department. I commend each of you for how you reached out to the family in their time of need. Several cliché things can be said about family or the camaraderie within law enforcement, however, we proved that such comments are not simply words in our organization. Your actions speak to your character and your willingness to give and sacrifice for each other. Vince was strong, professional, and funny. We enjoyed spending time with him for who he was. It was a blessing to have him in our lives.

Chief Zachary Flores