

June 23, 2017

On May 11, 2017 you took our loved one away from us in a senseless act of violence that cuts to the very heart of a civil society. You made a conscious decision to take Kevin's life and change our lives forever.

Kevin was a man who had devoted his adult life to public service. On his 18th birthday he left for Air Force basic training. He was Security Police in the Air Force and was posted overseas during Desert Storm and again to Saudi Arabia for peacekeeping.

After an Honorable Discharge from the Air Force, Kevin spent the next 25 years at Arkansas Tech University, West Memphis Police Department, retiring at the rank of Captain, and Yell County Sheriff's Department reaching the rank of Lieutenant before his life was ended by you. Kevin left West Memphis to return to Yell County to be closer to his extended family members.

People who knew Kevin would tell you he was fair, impartial and honest. Kevin believed the same laws applied to rich or poor, black, white or brown. He loved his job and helping people. Kevin was doing his job on May 11 and simply wanted to talk to you and help you.

You took the life of a husband, father, son, brother, uncle, grandson, nephew, cousin and friend. You have deprived all of us of more than you can imagine. You took away our joy of a Mother's Day cookout, a Father's Day fish fry, countless birthday and anniversary celebrations and holiday get-togethers from Easter to Christmas. You took away our right to say goodbye to Kevin, to be able to hold his hand or touch his face one final time. You took away his right to life.

We are not concerned for your life or leniency for you. We would have pushed for a death penalty conviction if we were assured the sentence would be carried out in a reasonable amount of time. Since executions are rarely carried out in less than 20 years we are satisfied you will spend the rest of your life in prison. You will never be able to inflict this pain and hurt on another family. There is no sentence harsh enough for what you have done and taken from us. We want the justice we will never see. Every day you are alive is one more day than you allowed Kevin.

Someday you will have to answer to God. May He show you the same mercy you showed Kevin.