

Presented to me by Levi Blackly from O.S.P.

Regarding Kevin Coons Passing Oct 6 12/16/2024

Jazmyn,

Levi Blackly ESS Team Leader

Emergency Staff Services

CEM/Peer Support at Oregon State Penitentiary

Department of Corrections and 17 year friend

of my son beginning in 2007 at O.S.P.

when Kevin began working there. Kevin

moved back to Oregon from Arizona where he

completed a very tough 'DP SST' training under

a private Contractor overseeing the "Policing and

Security and training of C.O.s. Kevin worked

in a high security block in Prison out of Tucson

Arizona. Prior to 2005 Kevin was the only C.O.

to escort the highest risk rated prisoner risk

to medical facility outside of the Prison. Kevin and one

other C.O. escorted inmate with irons and cuffs into

facility where Dr. said inmate had to have metal removed

to have tests done. Inmate released out of cuffs and irons

and attacked Dr. Other C.O. fought with Inmate who tried

to take his gun. Heard Kevin had tactical training so carried.

Other C.O. had his arm injured holding onto gun. Kevin pulled

off inmate who made his way out doors. Kevin pursued

the inmate chasing him to rear gate to car lot. Kevin

called out the proper warnings 2-3 times "he would

shoot" but inmate ignored still running fast to

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get out the gate. Kevin knew if he could open the gate the public would be in grave danger as inmate was a multiple felon with two counts of murder with life sentence. Kevin slowed his pursuit and took aim yelling his threat and while the inmate still running right before gate Kevin slowed down ^{aiming his} gun and shot the inmate - dropping him instantly to the ground. He was hit in lower right neck. Kevin hurried to check for pulse and detected he was alive and vocal. Kevin did some first-aid and made sure he didn't struggle putting some cloth under his head as he fell on a brick planter. Ambulance came, C.O. officer needed to go to hospital and inmate struggling still and told Kevin even as he was loaded on gurney he was going to kill anyone in his way inside or outside. He and his brother were both in prison for murder. Kevin was only C.O. in their history to stop an escaping inmate using an issued firearm. Kevin was cited by the State of Arizona and Tucson City with awards for quick public service.

During 17 years at OSP he saved the life of at least one inmate who didn't want to be saved and the CO's did CPR and all to keep his heart going. The inmate rolled out with escorts to ambulance but grabbed Kevin and gurney fell over with inmate

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and whole gurney on top of him. Inmate loaded up again but Kevin had number of injuries - later needing surgeries and pins in one hand. Kevin treated the inmates with a firm respect and always with the old safety rules first in mind. Kevin said we are there to keep the inmates alive and safe from each other and then we keep each other safe and then the public. I came to learn how stressful a C.O.'s job and life can be. The things they saw and had to hear and had to experience were sometimes horrifying and many times insane. Kevin worked at OSP until he could not return. He had so many injury repairs to his body and life there is tough so when the C.O. comes home sometime the family almost is seen as inmates when they argue or misbehave - C.O. learn to be always aware if someone comes up behind them - almost always on the defense. It's hard on them as a career job. Divorce rate high, Drinking a big problem and suicides a high rate. My husband worked at OSC I for 16 years running an outside maintenance crew he hand picked. Don also saved the life of two of his crew over the years. His crew got to work outside with tools and mowers and shears etc. To work outside with Don's crew

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was a coveted job. He got many
Kites applying to work in Landscapes Crew.
Donalds crew accomplished a number of "firsts"
at OSC1. They got many write-ups in the
DOC newsletters for refurbish the old greenhouse,
getting giant composter-as in greenhouse they
planted many many plants and Veggies from seed
and starts producing hundreds of pounds
of produce to donate to County Food Share,
they grew disappearing Lupine from seed
successfully to plant in areas to feed certain
rare moths etc, etc. They beautified the grounds
and decorated outside for Christmas and visitors.

They kept up area per sweat lodge, Valley ball
sand areas, kept a dog to 'accidentally' scare
geese away, etc, etc. Donald retired in 2015 and
the Landscape was said never to be so good again
and not enough vegetables to donate. Donald passed
away two years ago. Kevin, my son, passed away
2 1/2 months ago. My son-in-law is Maintenance
Specialist at O.S.P. for 14 years and past AOCE V.I.P.
My daughter works at administration at O.S.P.
for about 6 years. Second daughter is County
Deputy Sheriff Probation, Parole, granddaughter SST
Wants and Warrants per County, Son-in-law Fed. Sheriff
at VA Hospital. In my direct family 24 years of

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public service actually Public Safety.
Of all the different departments in
Public Safety and Peace I saw the
Corrections Officers as unsung heroes. I know
first hand what a close "band of brothers
(and sisters for sure). What C.O. miss I think -
at retirement are their Co-worker "family".
My husband so missed the camaraderie,
the company the brotherhood of knowing
only what they know or share each day
under such stress in a place where lives are
daily on the line. Number of suicides are
greater per population workers for working
Corrections Officers than any other jobs
Upon retirement seems 50% depressed and
50% retired happy to travel, sight seeing,
more socializing, hobbytime etc if they plan
ahead and are lucky!

Levi was such a great support to Kevin
as he was ill from cancer and treatments for
so long. Levi visited Kevin in hospital often
and kept him up on news at work, helped
Kevin with paper work for sick leave, short term
disability, long term disability, Dr.'s releases
etc and praying with him - Levi was Kevin's
best Liason to work and getting ready to return.

Kevin enjoyed interactions and challenges at work. He values his relations with all staff at work and is proud being fair and helpful - greeting incoming visitors. He was a good "handler" of situations at 'meet and greet' desk he called it. He also was a friend and supporter of other staff off the job. His children lived out of town or out of state and he was divorced so Kevin's days at work gave him purpose, often praise for his dedication and attitude. He really took satisfaction in meeting the demands of his work there. Once he was on Hospital Duty with an inmate they both found out they both had Colon Cancer and talked about their treatment plan showing Kevin had a heart for all people especially people with challenges and frailties. He was a man 6'3" and 220 lbs so he was not very frail himself - he had a 'big' presence which was handy on his job as he had a soft heart.

Thank you and all groups
and Foundations supporting
Correctional Peace officers
and their families!

Kevin children will find it
easier to travel to his home & serve
Linda Coons