

MONTGOMERY COUNTY POLICE

MEMORIAL

27 September 2021

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COL (RET), US Army
COL, Ohio Military Reserve
Dayton SWAT
Member, Ohio Veterans Hall of Fame

Ladies and Gentleman, Honored Guests, Families of the Fallen, and Esteemed Members of the Law Enforcement Community,

Their lights shined so brightly for all the days during which they served. Dark days have consumed the communities of Dayton and Springdale with the terrible losses of two of their finest, Detective George Del Rio, Dayton Police Department, and Officer Kaia Grant, Springdale Police Department. Their valiant mark on the law enforcement community remains etched forever on the minds of those left behind to carry on in the finest traditions of police work and for those to whom they will always remain beloved. They gave their lives to keep us safe and to protect the citizenry from harm; in the words of President Abraham Lincoln, "with the last full measure of devotion."^[1] There simply is no greater sacrifice on American soil, on any soil. These are incalculable losses. It is incumbent upon us to continue their legacy of heroism, integrity, and valor and never to forget their noble and courageous deeds that must be engraved upon the collective memory of those left to carry on in their absence.

Detective Del Rio served with the Dayton Police Department for 30 years and with the DEA Task Force for 18 years. Fatally shot in the line of duty while serving a search warrant with the DEA task force on November 4th, 2019, he made the ultimate sacrifice in the line of duty, remaining on life support for 4 days so that his organs could be donated before succumbing to his injuries. This final life-saving act was the culmination of a career of dedicated to saving others from the ravishing and perilous effects of lethal drugs and other crimes against humanity.^[2]

Detective Kevin Phillips, his longtime friend and colleague, described Detective Del Rio as "such a jovial person with an infectious personality that spilled out all over the place."^[3] During his 30-year career, his expertise enabled him to tackle the immense

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battleground of drug trafficking, in which he achieved the highest level of all possible noble deeds, to rid this community of a plague upon its citizens, without reluctance in facing tremendous risk and always with exemplary performance. In the words of Chief Richard Biehl, the bearing of his work reached not just the City of Dayton, but far beyond the borders of this nation. "He was just that good at what he did. He was a rock and the most noble and selfless of public servants."^[4] His passing has left behind a brokenhearted department and an entire community to grieve his loss and to cherish him in their memories. We pay tribute today to Detective Del Rio's beloved family in their time of bereavement: his wife, Kathy Del Rio, daughters, Ariel Del Rio Busch (Steven), Erica Hampton (Devin), Veronica Del Rio and Naya Del Rio; granddaughters, Aliyah Shafeek, Luna Hampton and Santana Busch, as well as the entirety of the Dayton Police Department for a loss that remains immeasurable.

Officer Kaia Grant was only 33 years old when she gave her life in the line of duty on March 21st, 2020, serving on the force for 7 ½ years. As a graduate of the College of William and Mary, Officer Grant initially supervised an after school program for children in the City of Cincinnati at the time of her hiring. In the words of Chief of Police Thomas Wells, "Officer Grant was a police officer for all seasons, representing everyone who has ever worn the uniform of the thin blue line." ^[5] She performed her job to serve others; to every one of you, every day, exemplifying the very best of what police officers bring to the banquet table of public service. She was "the kind of officer who both generated and elevated the public trust with an uncanny ability to bring resolution to the unresolvable and with the capacity to communicate without barriers to earn the faith and confidence of the community at large, regardless of gender or ethnicity or position "Everyone gravitated towards her, that magnetic Officer Grant; so much so, that in the hearts and minds and souls of her fellow officers of the Springdale Police Department, she still stands and walks among them." ^[6] Officer Grant leaves behind her cherished family; her father, Kevin Grant, of Conyers, Georgia; her mother, Gina Mobley of Wyoming, Ohio; and her two adoring brothers, Kendall and Kellen Grant. Said Chief Wells of the Springdale Police Department, "Let the bond forged by tragedy sustain us in these times of great sadness to create healing through Officer Grant's family, both blood and blue."^[7]

End of Watch for Detective George Del Rio ~ 7 November 2020

End of Watch for Officer Kaia Grant ~ 21 March 2020

Rest in Peace, Detective Del Rio and Officer Grant. You each served with the utmost dedication to duty, honor, dignity, and valor. Your absence remains be duly noted.

I first learned what it truly meant to be a first responder on November 5th of 2009, when in the face of a hail of gunfire and as horror unfolded at the Soldier Readiness

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Processing Center at Fort Hood, Texas, those of us in uniform ran directly into danger and towards the shooting in progress. This was the Fort Hood Massacre, when life as I once knew it came to a final end. It was Civilian Police Officers Kimberly Munley and SGT Mark Todd that apprehended the assassin and thwarted far greater losses than the 13 innocent souls who lost their lives in the process of reading for deployment to Iraq and Afghanistan, SGT Munley sustaining 3 gunshot wounds in the process when her service weapon jammed. This is what unparalleled courage and heroism look like. We must be entrusted to pay homage to those selfless souls who have stood so bravely in the face of mortal danger, unafraid to rush headlong into all things perilous, and willing to make that ultimate and greatest sacrifice of all without any degree of reluctance. And haven't we just witnessed, in these last days, the transformation of tragedy into triumph? This, Officer Thadeu Holloway, is what valor, courage and fearlessness look like. It is every police officer that must come to know that when disaster and catastrophe strike, **their** lives matter.

When the remnants of their funerals are left to sweep, we must take note of the ultimate sacrifices and the giving of one's life for those sworn to defend and protect our citizenry and the communities they serve. The seminal question to be asked of those who can no longer answer for themselves, is this: "Was it worth dying for?" Are we as a community worth the price of their very lives? What would those who have lost their lives say if they could answer? "Are we the community you imagined, you dreamed that you would protect and defend when you left home for the last time and when you took your last breath?"^[8]

There is a requisite, perpetual and everlasting purpose that must make their lives worth surrendering.....and that intention is this: that we become unfailing in our respect of the men and women who comprise the thin blue line as they perform their sworn duties and that we are grateful in our hearts for the fact that they pin on their badges and kiss their families goodbye at every shift, never knowing if this is the day before their names will not answer at the next roll call. That is indeed a sobering and grave piece of knowledge to grasp, that which goes hand in hand with the badge and the gun and in what we demand of our police officers; those who show up on the worst day of the lives for those who call upon them. There is not a one of them who takes their pledge lightly, as they continue to faithfully discharge their duties to in accordance with the laws of their state, their country, and the United States Constitution, and as they willingly report to duty every day, knowing they may never return. "Where are those courageous voices that must rise up in unison to assure that their sacrifices will never be made in vain?"^[9]. "Nobody is born a warrior. You choose to be one when you refuse to be

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seated. You choose to be one when you refuse to back down. You choose to be one when you stand up after getting knocked down. You choose to be one because if not you, then who?" [10]

The movement to defund and dismantle police departments across the land has become the battle cry, flying in the face of a culture of tolerance, mutual respect, and compassion in order to flourish. We are at risk of an unraveling America. We have become savage people in our own homeland, seeking to incinerate and demolish the rule of law, while voices of reason have been silenced and lost in the face of insurrection. Life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness cannot possibly be brought to bear by the lawlessness and depravity that threaten to annihilate the very foundation of this great nation. Defund the police? The time is long past due to **defend** the police with all our might. The law enforcement community is what stands between America, the safe haven, and the uprising of anarchy, treachery, and the external threats and acts of terrorism that imperil the American way of life.

These are once again, dreadful and terrifying times for the law enforcement community at large. The war on cops is raging with wild abandon, placing the vilified guardian angels of public safety at tremendous risk and in terror for their very lives and that of their families. America's law enforcement community remains in great danger, facing a movement against them that has metastasized like a national cancer. The end result is that much of America has turned their backs on the men and women in blue, leaving too many of them demoralized to the breaking point and questioning why they should continue to show up in uniform, day after day, only to be the target of unrestrained loathing. There simply is no prosthetic device for an amputated spirit. The onus is on every one of us to embrace these everyday heroes, who, in the words of the legendary Dayton Detective Kevin Phillips, see and do things that no one should ever have to, so that others will never have to..."[11] Police officers place themselves in the arena of all things terrible, simply because they are among the very finest that this our country has to offer, choosing bravery over comfort and bravery over indifference. "When the light burns dim, they are the light. When the goodness of humankind has succumbed to the wickedness that has consumed our nation, they are the good."[12]

We, as a community and as a nation, cannot continue to pollute ourselves with hatred and prejudice and all things intolerant. There is only one race...the human race, encompassing all peoples of colors and shades of black, brown, Native American,

Asian, white, Arab, and Hispanic. We have failed to honor the age-old values and moral fortitude of our forefathers, calling enlightenment the pollution of what once formed the basis for what right looks like, seeking instead to endorse, to covet and take ownership of what has not been earned, trampling what right looks like in the process.

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It was on Memorial Day, just two short years ago, that our community leaders stood side by side with the Dayton Police Department against the rally staged by the Honorable Sacred Knights; this in order to condemn hatred. It was only one year later when all things venomous were directed at the law enforcement community, this time with a response of complete silence. It should not take a tragedy or a national disaster for us to love our neighbors and for the best in us and of us to shine forth. Have the humanity to show grace and gratitude to those who would seek to save your life. Let this be a so much better reflection of the people that we once were and can be again. And never forget that it is the police officer who dares to be great, in the face of merciless criticism and denigration, but never failing to rise above and to serve with honor, professionalism, dignity and decency without fail. Without them, we in this nation cannot be safe. The loss of one of these precious souls is far too many. As Detective Del Rio and Officer Grant devoted their lives, seeking to build community and not to destroy it, they promoted the time-honored legacy of the willingness to lay down their lives in the call of duty. Their enduring legacy of service and sacrifice will remain the everlasting brickwork of the thin blue line. The many thousands of men and women who encompass the thin blue line would gladly lay down their lives for their brothers and sisters in blue, standing watch together to separate the prey from the predator and the evil from the good. "Blessed are the peacemakers who embody this, for they will be called the true children of God" (Matthew 5:9).^[13]

1. *The Gettysburg Address*. (n.d.). Retrieved from <http://www.abrahamlincolnonline.org/lincoln/speeches/gettysburg.htm>. Retrieved July 26, 2021
2. Biehl, R. (n.d.). *Personal Communication*. Retrieved September 11, 2021.

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3. Phillips, K. (n.d.). *Personal Communication*. Retrieved August 24, 2021.
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Remember fallen LEOs by continuing their legacy of heroism, integrity and valor

A memorial address for Ohio LEOs – Detective Jorge Del Rio and Officer Kaia Grant – is a reminder of the ultimate sacrifices of our police heroes

May 10, 2022

The following address was delivered by Kathy Platoni, Psy.D., DAAPM, FAIS, on September 27, 2021, during the Montgomery County (Ohio) Police Memorial in 2021. During the memorial, every officer who died in the line of duty in Montgomery County is honored, dating back to 1860. We share these words of remembrance in honor of our fallen law enforcement heroes and as we recognize National Police Week. [Email Dr. Platoni](#) for a copy of the full address.

Their lights shined so brightly for all the days during which they served. Dark days have consumed the communities of Dayton and Springdale with the terrible losses of two of their finest, [Detective Jorge Del Rio](#), Dayton Police Department, and [Officer Kaia Grant](#), Springdale Police Department. Their valiant mark on the law enforcement community remains etched forever on the minds of those left behind to carry on in the finest traditions of police work and for those to whom they will always remain beloved.

They gave their lives to keep us safe and to protect the citizenry from harm; in the words of President Abraham Lincoln, “with the last full measure of devotion.” [1] There simply is no greater sacrifice on American soil, on any soil. These are incalculable losses. It is incumbent upon us to continue their legacy of heroism, integrity and valor and never to forget their noble and courageous deeds that must be engraved upon the collective memory of those left to carry on in their absence.

END OF WATCH FOR DETECTIVE JORGE DEL RIO, NOVEMBER 7, 2019



Detective Jorge Del Rio (ODMP)

Detective Del Rio served with the Dayton Police Department for 30 years and with the DEA Task Force for 18 years. Fatally shot in the line of duty while serving a search warrant with the DEA task force on November 4th, 2019, he made the ultimate sacrifice in the line of duty, remaining on life support for four days so that his organs could be donated before succumbing to his injuries. This final life-saving act was the culmination of a career of dedication to saving others from the ravishing and perilous effects of lethal drugs and other crimes against humanity. [2]

Detective Kevin Phillips, his longtime friend and colleague, described Detective Del Rio as “such a jovial person with an infectious personality that spilled out all over the place.” [3] During his 30-year career, his expertise enabled him to tackle the immense battleground of drug trafficking, in which he achieved the highest level of all possible noble deeds, to rid this community of a plague upon its citizens, without reluctance in facing tremendous risk and always with exemplary performance.

In the words of Chief Richard Biehl, the bearing of his work reached not just the City of Dayton, but far beyond the borders of this nation. “He was just that good at what he did. He was a rock and the most noble and selfless of public servants.” [2] His passing has left behind a brokenhearted department and an entire community to grieve his loss and to cherish him in their memories.

We pay tribute today to Detective Del Rio’s beloved family in their time of bereavement: his wife, Kathy Del Rio, daughters, Ariel Del Rio Busch (Steven), Erica Hampton (Devin), Veronica Del Rio and Naya Del Rio; granddaughters, Aliyah Shafeek, Luna Hampton and Santana Busch, as well as the entirety of the Dayton Police Department for a loss that remains immeasurable.

END OF WATCH FOR OFFICER KAIA GRANT, MARCH 21, 2020



Officer Kaia Grant (ODMP)

Officer Kaia Grant was only 33 years old when she gave her life in the line of duty on March 21, 2020, serving on the force for 7½ years.

As a graduate of the College of William and Mary, Officer Grant initially supervised an after-school program for children in the City of Cincinnati at the time of her hiring. In the words of Chief of Police Thomas Wells, “Officer Grant was a police officer for all seasons, representing everyone who has ever worn the uniform of the thin blue line.” [4]

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public trust with an uncanny ability to bring resolution to the unresolvable and with the capacity to communicate without barriers to earn the faith and confidence of the community at large, regardless of gender or ethnicity or position. Everyone gravitated towards her, that magnetic Officer Grant; so much so, that in the hearts and minds and souls of her fellow officers of the Springdale Police Department, she still stands and walks among them.” [4]

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WE MUST PAY HOMAGE TO SELFLESS SOULS

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There is a requisite, perpetual and everlasting purpose that must make their lives worth surrendering and that intention is this: that we become unfailing in our respect of the men and women who comprise the thin blue line as they perform their sworn duties and that we are grateful in our hearts for the fact that they pin on their badges and kiss their families goodbye at every shift, never knowing if this is the day before their names will not answer at the next roll call.

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REFERENCES

1. [The Gettysburg Address.](#)
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4. Wells T. (n.d.) Personal communication. Retrieved August 29, 2021. (2021).
5. [Memorial Day: A History of Sacrifice.](#)