

Joseph Catholic Church. Final Commendation and Farewell Prayers will be in St. Peter's Cemetery. The family will receive friends from 6 until 8.00 p.m. Friday, October 2, 2015, at Dunbar Funeral home, Devine Street Chapel.

Officer Alia died in the line of duty Wednesday, September 30, 2015. Born in Columbia, he was the son of Dr. Richard Thomas Alia and Mary Alexis Wade Alia. He was a graduate of Richland Northeast High School and the University of South Carolina with degrees in Criminal Justice and Media Arts. He was a founding father of Phi Sigma Kappa Gamma Triton Chapter. Officer Alia was with the Forest Acres Police Department for seven years. He was an Eagle Scout and a member of the St. Joseph Catholic Church.

Surviving are his wife, Cassandra Kugler "Kassy" Alia; son Salvatore David Alia; and his parents; sisters, Christine A. Corbly (Brett) of Indian Land, Rebecca Mesnil (Pierre) of Columbia; a niece, Madeleine; father-in-law and mother-in-law, David and Carol Ann Kugler; sisters-in-laws, Kristina Persinger (Brian), Knatalia Kugler, Kara Kugler; and numerous aunts, uncles and cousins.

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to the Greg Alia Memorial Fund at www.gofundme.com/rw5b9wbc. Please sign the online guestbook at www.dunbarfunerals.com.

The State further published a thoughtful front page article by Avery G. Wilkes on October 4th reflecting the love and affection for the Alia family as headlined Officer was 'strong and brave, selfless'.

Hundreds gathered Saturday at St. Joseph Catholic Church and Elmwood Cemetery to mourn the death and celebrate the life of Forest Acres police officer Greg Alia.

Alia, 32, a seven-year veteran of the Forest Acres Police Department, was shot and killed Wednesday morning by a suspect in Richland Mall. His funeral Mass and burial services were crowded with police officers and law enforcement officials, including Forest Acres Police Chief Gene Sealy, Richland County Sheriff Leon Lott and S.C. Attorney General Alan Wilson.

Some mourners who packed into the downtown Columbia church, including police from departments across South Carolina, wore blue ribbons in support of police.

Alia on Saturday was recalled as a gentle patient protector who sought to serve others before himself.

Christine Corbly, one of Alia's sisters who spoke at the funeral Mass, said Alia's overwhelming love and happiness were evident in the way he treated his family, friends and those he protected as a police officer.

"This is not the first time my brother rushed into danger, and if things had been different it wouldn't have been the last," Corbly said.

"This is not what made my brother a hero. What made my brother a hero was that every day he got up, put on his uniform, loved his family, loved his son, loved his wife, was full of commitment and happiness and contentment that he poured into everything he did.

"He gave it his all."

Corbly, who is older than Alia, said she used to read to him stories about heroes, warriors and adventure when they were kids. She said Alia wasn't usually drawn to the main character, preferring the sidekicks instead for their loyalty, selflessness and sacrifice.

"It seems that is the man he tried to become—strong and brave, selfless," Corbly said.

"Never the star, never the center, but rather the one who sacrificed himself so the hero could escape and save the day."

Monsignor Richard Harris, who delivered the homily at the funeral Mass, said Alia always looked for the good in others and that even when there wasn't much good to find, he was still patient and understanding.

"We will miss Gregory Alia—his voice, a touch, a smile, and a presence that will be longed for in the weeks, months and years to come," Harris said. "And there is the wish to say just one more, 'I love you.'"

Corbly thanked those in attendance for the outpouring of support the family has received over the past few days, most of all the memories of her brother that friends shared with them.

A GoFundMe set up by Alia's Phi Sigma Kappa fraternity brothers at the University of South Carolina had raised nearly 3500 donations, amounting to nearly \$175,000, as of Saturday afternoon.

That support also was visible on the way to Alia's burial service, said Chris Scott, who grew up with Alia in Forest Acres and went to USC and then California with him before he came back to South Carolina to become a police officer.

Officers and others lined the streets throughout Columbia, the officers saluting the funeral procession as it drove from St. Joseph's on Devine Street to the cemetery on Elmwood Avenue.

"It blew me away," Scott said.

"There were officers at every corner. They saluted every time.

"Outside of every shop on the way, there were people standing there."

Scott said the driver of the hearse he rode said that in the more than 1,800 funerals he had worked, he had never seen anything like that.

"To see this tidal wave of support and people that Greg knew and touched—he was the most magnetic, charming guy," Scott said. "I think his greatest super-power was he could not just make friends, but he could bring people together and form groups of friends and then bring them together."

"I know hundreds of people here, all through Greg, and every single one of them has an amazing incredible story."

A PERSONAL APPRECIATION OF GREG

The Wilson family has a personal appreciation of Greg as in 1999, I joined my third son Julian Wilson accompanying Greg on a trek to the Philmont Scout Ranch at Cimmaron, New Mexico, with Greg's Scout leaders being John Graham, Jim Flynn, Vincent VanBrunt, and Dave Cartledge, Scoutmaster of Troop 100 at St. Joseph Catholic Church of Columbia, South Carolina. Our oldest son Alan Wilson was grateful for Greg's volunteering to put up campaign signs in Alan's successful campaign for State Attorney General. And a dear family friend Adam Piper was fortunate to be a Phi Sigma Kappa Fraternity brother at the University of South Carolina.

LOCAL ARTIST WINS BIG

HON. PETE OLSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 7, 2015

Mr. OLSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Lauren Luna for winning Best in Show at the Pearland Arts League Show.

Lauren's winning painting is called Late Nights (Burgundy St.) and is based on a picture she took last year in New Orleans. Ms. Luna is active in our local art community and shares her passion for art as an art teacher at Mark Twain Elementary in Alvin, Texas. She is a true inspiration to her students by not only teaching them about the importance of art, but also showing them that they can follow their dreams. Ms. Luna's students share her success and also encourage her to never give up. The Alvin community is proud of Lauren's talents both as an artist and teacher.

On behalf of the Twenty-Second Congressional District of Texas, congratulations again to Lauren Luna for winning Best in Show. Your beautiful art is truly inspiring.

RECOGNIZING JUDGE JAMES PROUD

HON. PATRICK MEEHAN

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 7, 2015

Mr. MEEHAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Judge James Proud, who is completing his service on the Delaware County Court of Common Pleas.

Judge Proud began his service to our country in 1968 when he entered the United States Army. Judge Proud soon entered the U.S. Army Engineer Officer Candidate School where he completed the program as a Distinguished Military Graduate, finishing first in his class among 55 other candidates.

Following his military service, Judge Proud received his law degree from Villanova University and continued to serve southeastern Pennsylvania when he was appointed as a Judge of the Delaware County Court of Common Pleas in 1996 by Governor Ridge. He served with honor and integrity, earning respect among his colleagues and others in the law enforcement and legal communities. Judge Proud also gave back to his community through his support for the Delaware County Chamber of Commerce, the Community Development Committee, and the Delaware County Emergency Food and Shelter Program.

Mr. Speaker, Judge Proud has dedicated his life to serving his community and his country, and he leaves the bench with the continuing gratitude of his friends and neighbors. I thank him for his service and wish him the best in retirement.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. MICHAEL E. CAPUANO

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 7, 2015

Mr. CAPUANO. Mr. Speaker, last week I missed several roll call votes due to weather. I wish to state how I would have voted had I been present:

Roll Call No. 534—Yes

Roll Call No. 535—Yes