

Winchester police officer to have been shot and killed in the line of duty.

Ricky was 32 years old. He and his wife Kelly had just completed the construction of a new home. They were expecting their first child, a boy, who is due on Christmas Day.

He joined the Winchester Police Department almost 8 years ago. Just over a year ago, he was promoted to sergeant in charge of a brand-new department, the Special Enforcement Team.

I want to extend my deepest condolences to Sergeant Timbrook's family as we pay tribute to him and to law enforcement officers and their families everywhere who routinely go into harm's way to protect us.

My father was a police officer on the streets of Philadelphia and I know the worry a police officer's family can feel when a husband, father, brother, or son goes out the door each day to begin their tour of duty.

According to the National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial Fund, more than 14,000 officers have died while performing their duties. On average, one law enforcement officer is killed somewhere in America every other day, and an average of 160 officers die in the line of duty every year.

Mr. Speaker, I include for the RECORD an obituary about Sergeant Timbrook and an editorial which appeared in the Winchester Star November 2, 1999, as follows:

[From The Winchester Star, Nov. 2, 1999]
IN THE LINE OF DUTY—IN POLICEMAN'S DEATH,
ALL ARE DIMINISHED

It says something about the quality of life here in the northern Valley that, before the horrific events of last Friday night, it had been more than 60 years since a local law enforcement officer had fallen in the line of duty. However, it also says something about today's society that even here, in our largely peaceful corner of the world, violence can erupt and snatch from us the life of a fine young officer.

The slaying of Sgt. Ricky Lee Timbrook should prompt us to pause and reflect not merely on the utter fragility of our worldly existence, but on the tenuous line on which our social contract rests. The primary reason people, down through the ages, have formed communities is for reasons of mutual comfort and security. This contract, of course, entails a provision for public protection—i.e. the police. The presence of the men and women ensured with that protection—the fabled “thin blue line”—quietly assures us that the social contract is being enforced.

Thus, when one of these officers—one of these men and women who take an oath “to serve and protect” us—falls in the performance of this essential duty, we as a community feel it. First and foremost, of course, we feel for the man himself, because we know he died so that we might live free from the worries daily addressed by our men and women in blue. And, to be sure, we feel for his loved ones—particularly a baby, yet unborn, who will never know its father—and for his fellow officers, to whom the awful knowledge is hammered home anew that they live on the proverbial edge, that violence awaits their kind with every routine call, that death walks closer to them than to the rest of us.

However, our tranquility, too, is shattered, in the knowledge that one of the exemplary people we pay to step forward and protect us has been taken from our midst. We grieve because Ricky Timbrook no longer rides in his patrol car through our streets, and no longer walks the streets of this town.

By all accounts, Sgt. Timbrook was a fine policeman, but an even better man, one to whom we confidently entrusted our security. We at The Star knew him not only in his role as a crimefighter, but also as the schools' DARE officer, the crew-cut policeman who one day, two years ago, posed happily for a photo with the winner of DARE program's annual essay contest. Others, of course, knew him better—as husband, son, brother, friend, and comrade.

And so, in his untimely death, we are all diminished—and immeasurably saddened.

SERGEANT RICKY L. TIMBROOK

Ricky Lee Timbrook, age 32, of 2876 Sheffield Court, Winchester, Virginia died Saturday, October 30, 1999 in the Winchester Medical Center.

Mr. Timbrook was born October 5, 1967 in Winchester, Virginia, the son of Richard Timbrook and Kitty Stotler Timbrook of Bloomery, West Virginia. He was a sergeant with the Winchester Police Department where he had been employed for eight years. He attended the Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church of Winchester and was a member of the Winchester Fraternal Order of Police Lodge. He was a graduate of Fairmont State College where he received a Bachelor of Business degree in Criminal Justice.

Mr. Timbrook married Kelly L. Wisecarver on July 27, 1997 in Winchester, Virginia.

Surviving with his wife and parents, is a sister, Kimberly Hundson of Capon Bridge, West Virginia.

A funeral service will be conducted at 11:00 a.m. on Thursday, November 4, 1999 at Sacred Heart of Jesus Catholic Church in Winchester with the Pastor James H. Utt, Pastor Jeffrey D. May officiating. Interment will be in Mount Hebron Cemetery.

Pallbearers will be Kevin Bowers, Matthew Sirbaugh, Robert Ficik, Frank Pearson, Julian Berger and Alex Beeman.

The family will receive friends at Ompps Funeral Home on Wednesday evening from 7:00 p.m. until 9:00 p.m.

Memorial contributions may be made to the Ricky L. Timbrook Children's Outreach Fund, c/o Chief Gary W. Reynolds, 126 N. Cameron Street, Winchester, Virginia 22601.

SPECIAL ORDERS

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. GIBBONS). Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 6, 1999, and under a previous order of the House, the following Members will be recognized for 5 minutes each.

CALLING FOR IMPROVEMENT IN MATH AND SCIENCE EDUCATION IN AMERICA

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. EHLERS) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. EHLERS. Mr. Speaker, I rise this evening to discuss the issue of education and mathematics and science in our Nation. I have deep concerns about

the current status of math and science education in this Nation.

First of all, I believe currently it is inadequate. I say this for several reasons. Mr. Speaker, as I was stating, the Third International Mathematics and Science Study, which was conducted a few years ago, indicated that we were near the bottom of those nations and developed countries teaching mathematics and science in their high schools, near the bottom.

Some say, well, it is not so bad, we were not that far below the others. I say it is terrible. With the resources that this country has and with the high quality of students this Nation has, it is inexcusable for us to be near the bottom, or at the bottom. We should be not only at the top, but far and away the best Nation in this world in terms of our educational effort.

Mr. Speaker, the second reason I say we are not doing well in mathematics and science education is simply by looking at the tests administered by the States. When we look at these tests and look at the test scores, we find that in reading a typical average for a State might be in the seventies, and for some of the other subjects in that area, and for science we are down in the 30 percent, even for some of the better States, and as low as 10 percent in some of the others. These are not passing grades and they never have been in our school system. We must improve.

A third indication that we are not doing the job well is that we do not have enough engineers and scientists to do the job in this country. How do I know? Because we issue H(1)(b) visas every year to allow scientists and engineers from other countries to emigrate into this country to help us out. Annually, it is in the neighborhood of 100,000 each, and usually that quota is used up well before the end of the year. We are importing scientists and engineers, asking them to emigrate to this country for this purpose. Clearly, we are not producing enough of our own.

The final indication that we are not doing the job with math and science education in our K through 12 system is that when we visit our grad schools, graduate education in mathematics, science, and engineering, we find that, in general, over half of the students are from other countries. Our students are not able to compete for grad school entrance with students of other nations.

I think we have to improve our math and science education. Why? For the reasons I gave above, but also because, first of all, we have to make sure we have enough scientists and engineers in this country so that we can keep our economic growth strong and meet the needs of our citizens.

There are other reasons as well. It is not just producing good scientists and engineers, but a second main reason is what I call workplace readiness. We have reached the point in our society