

Grant County (Wis.) Sheriff's Department employees console each other at the gravesite of their colleague, deputy Thomas Reuter. Reuter's funeral attracted hundreds of law enforcement officers from throughout the Midwest. (TH photo by Mark Hirsch)

# 'In the line of duty'

## Hundreds grieve for Grant County deputy

By Lyn Hanson  
of the Telegraph Herald

PLATTEVILLE, Wis. — Grant County sheriff's deputy Thomas Reuter was remembered Thursday as a man who lived and died in the line of duty.

Several hundred law enforcement officers from throughout Wisconsin and surrounding states gathered at St. Mary's Catholic Church in Platteville to mourn Reuter, 38, of Livingston, who was killed with a single shotgun blast in the chest early Monday while assisting a tractor driver south of Livingston.

More than 200 squad cars, with their red and blue lights flashing, lined Grant County E as Reuter's flag-draped casket was brought to the Rock Church Cemetery in rural Livingston. Platteville Police Capt. James Jones said the procession of squad cars stretched continuously from Platteville to Livingston — about 14 miles.

Gov. Tommy Thompson was among the approximately 1,500 mourners who crowded into the church to hear memories of Reuter as a police officer, a family man, a hunter and a friend.

His widow, Diane, addressed the mourners at the church, thanking them

for their support.

"Thomas made me so proud," she said. "He's my very best friend and I'm going to miss him. Every one of you has made me feel so special, and I'm so proud of him and my family."

The Rev. Harold Zimmick, pastor of the United Methodist Church in Livingston, said the words in Reuter's obituary — "in the line of duty" — characterized his life not only as a police officer, but also as a person.

"Tom always wanted to be a law enforcement officer," he said. "It was a part of what he was, and what he wanted to be — yes, it was his calling."

Zimmick said Reuter's death serves as a reminder of the dangers police officers take in the line of duty.

"You know as well as I do that you are not appreciated," he said to the officers. "You may be despised and cursed. Yet how essential your work is."

Thoughts like this were on the minds of many police officers who lined up for five blocks outside the church before the service.

"We all do the same kind of work, and we all back each other when we're needed," said Brian Bierman, a former Grant County deputy now working for the Elroy Police Department. "From now on, I'll never trust anybody any further than I have to."

Douglas Vance of the Coralville (Iowa) Police Department said Reuter's death may make officers more cautious.

"When we approach a routine situation, we have to remember it may not be routine," he said. "We deal with motorist assists all the time, and we may relax — but I don't think that will happen again."

Upon arrival at the church door, many stepped out of line to greet — and sometimes hug — Grant County Sheriff Herb Hottenstein.

A red-eyed Hottenstein remembered Reuter as an outstanding officer.

"He did his job to the best of his abilities — the way he did all his work," Hottenstein said. "He was less than satisfied with less than the best — whether in law enforcement or in trapshooting."

Reuter's sister, Shirley Mayo of West Bend, recalled for the mourners Reuter's love of guns, hunting and the outdoors. He took her sons hunting for deer, quail, rabbit and pheasant, she said.

Grant County Chief Deputy Lloyd Runde said Reuter was a "caring officer" who taught hunting and boating safety courses, as well as traffic safety in Grant County schools.

■ More photos

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# Deputy

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Runde told Reuter's children — twins Dan and Doug, 15; Tim 13; Sherry, 10; and Andrew, 6 — that their father scheduled his work to ensure time for family activities.

The Rev. Arnold Reuter of New Lisbon, a Catholic priest and Reuter's uncle, said his nephew's death was senseless.

Gregory A. Coulthard, 18, of rural Livingston, is in the Richland County Jail at Richland Center, charged with first-degree

intentional homicide in Reuter's death. He is accused of shooting Reuter after the deputy stopped to assist him with his farm tractor.

Coulthard was arrested about five hours after Reuter's death, when police dogs tracked him to a barn where he was hiding under hay bales.

The dog that apprehended Coulthard — Ivan, a German shepherd with the Dane County canine corps — was in the honor guard that saluted Reuter's casket as it left the church and at the gravesite.

Also honoring Reuter was the seventh-grade safety patrol from

St. Mary's Catholic School in Platteville — the school Reuter attended.

Sheriff's departments from surrounding counties dispatched their officers to work in Grant County so Reuter's co-workers could attend the funeral.

Crawford County Sheriff William Fillbach of Prairie du Chien said the death of an officer inspires solidarity among law enforcement agents, whether or not they knew the officer personally.

"We're all in this together," he said. "It's awful hard when you lose a police officer, because they're out there every day putting their lives on the line for the public."

# Family, colleagues mourn deputy

## Reuter remembered as 'family man' and 'law and order' man

PLATTEVILLE (AP) — Hundreds of law enforcement officers gathered to pay last respects to a Grant County sheriff's deputy shot and killed after he stopped a tractor driver.

Deputy Tom Reuter, 38, of Livingston was remembered by family and friends at his funeral Thursday as a respected officer, a family man with five children and an avid gun collector who taught firearms safety classes.

Rev. Arnold Reuter, a Catholic priest and uncle of the victim, told the congregation the slain deputy was a "law and order man" who loved to collect guns.

Tom Reuter was killed shortly before midnight Sunday on a rural road south of Livingston. An 18-year-old man believed to have been driving the tractor has been charged with first-degree intentional homicide.

Many details surrounding the killing have yet to be released, but reports indicate Reuter had stopped to help the driver of the tractor and that his body was found by another deputy after he failed to report back to the department. Reuter was killed by a shotgun blast to the chest, authorities said.

Gov. Tommy Thompson was among the estimated 1,500 people who gathered at St. Mary's Catholic Church in Platteville for the funeral service.

More than a third of those in at-

tendance were uniformed law enforcement officers representing agencies across Wisconsin and the Midwest. The officers wore a black piece of tape over their badges as a symbolic gesture of mourning.

Reuter's wife, Diane, and five children, ages 6 through 15, sat in the front pew next to the plain, brown wooden casket during the 75 minute ceremony. Diane Reuter clasped her 6-year-old son Andy's hand throughout the ceremony as the family stood and sat quietly. There was little crying.

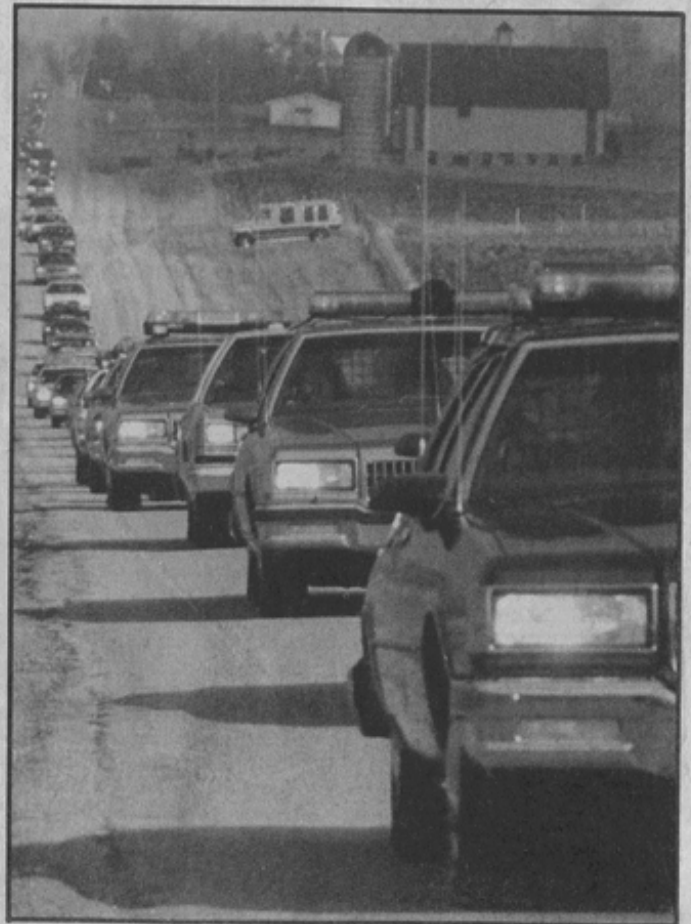
Diane Reuter addressed the congregation at the close of the funeral, thanking friends for their support.

A cadre of officers covered the casket with a U.S. flag before moving it down the main aisle and out the church as the ceremony ended. Thompson was escorted from the church moments before the casket was moved.

Earlier, Rev. Harold Zimmick, pastor of United Methodist Church in Livingston, who officiated at the funeral, told officers the loss of their colleague called attention to their dedication in the face of danger.

"You are a vital and essential ingredient in allowing us to enjoy life," Zimmick told the officers.

Grant County Chief Deputy Lloyd Runde also addressed the congregation, saying no matter how many times officers faced death they could never fully come to grips with the loss of one of their own.



RICH RYGH/The Capital Times

Law enforcement officers from across Wisconsin and the Midwest form a 1½-mile procession Thursday to the funeral of slain Grant County sheriff's deputy Tom Reuter.

Capital Times

3-23-90

## Parting words hailing deputy

The Associated Press

"Thomas made me so proud," Diane Reuter told those gathered at her husband Tom's funeral Thursday. "He's my very best friend and I'm going to miss him," she said. "Every one of you has made me feel so special and I'm so proud of him and my family."

"You are a vital and essential ingredient in allowing us to enjoy life," Rev. Harold Zimmick told a throng of law enforcement officers.

"As it was said by many folks in Livingston about Tom, he made it possible for us to sleep good at night. You just felt safer with Tom in town."

"He was a family man whose family is now devastated," said Rev. Arnold Reuter, a Catholic priest and uncle of the victim. "He loved and treasured guns and yet a gun ended his life."



The Associated Press

**Diane Reuter (clutching flag, right), widow of slain Grant County sheriff's deputy Tom Reuter, gathers with her five children around their father's casket Thursday. Six-year-old Andrew (front) is wearing his father's hat.**

Capitol Times

3-23-90

# IN MEMORY OF TOM REUTER

April 17, 1951-March 19, 1990

Tom Reuter, 38, a Grant County Sheriff's deputy and member of Teamsters Local 695, was killed in the line of duty on March 19, 1990.

Tom was born on April 17, 1951 in Platteville, Wisconsin, the son of LaVerne and Frances (Sherwin) Reuter. He and his three sisters, Mrs. Shirley Mayo of West Bend, WI; Mrs. Jack



**TOM REUTER**

(Kay) Maisa of Port Saint Lucie, FL; and Mrs. Sherry Ingersoll — deceased in 1980; grew up on a farm in rural Platteville.

Tom graduated from Platteville High School in 1969. He had an avid love of trap shooting and traveled extensively to participate in shoots.

On July 7, 1973 Tom married Diane Allen in Platteville. Tom and Diane were blessed with five wonderful children: Dan and Doug, 15; Tim, 13; Sherry, 10; and Andy, 6.

Tom lived for his family. He and Diane planned their entire lives around their children. They hunted together, enjoyed trips, worked, played and loved together. Tom was a devoted husband and dad and made the most of each day with his family.

Tom joined the Grant County Sheriff's Department in 1985. He had worked diligently over the last five years to earn the respect, trust and comradery of his fellow Teamster officers.

Tom's warm and friendly manner will be missed by the many, many people that he touched in his short 38 years living and working in Grant County.

Tom was a wonderful husband, father and friend. He will be missed by family, friends, fellow officers and fellow Teamsters. Local 695 extends its deepest sympathy to Tom's family.

A memorial fund has been established and any donations are sincerely appreciated. Contributions may be sent to the following address.

Tom Reuter Memorial Fund  
c/o Livingston State Bank  
P.O. Box 99  
Livingston, Wisconsin 53554



## Deputy services

**TOP PHOTO:** Andy Reuter, 6, wears the hat and holds the badge that belonged to his father, Grant County sheriff's deputy Thomas Reuter. Joining Andy in a vigil at Thomas Reuter's gravesite are his sister, Sherry Reuter (left), 10; his mother, Diane Reuter; and his cousin, Wesley Ingersoll, 10, of Platteville. Sheriff Herb Hottenstein presented Diane Reuter with the flag that draped her husband's casket. (Photo by Colleen Schultz)

**BOTTOM PHOTO:** Law enforcement officers, family and friends gather at Grant County Deputy Thomas Reuter's gravesite at Rock Church Cemetery, rural Livingston, Wis. (TH photo by Dale Stierman)





A line of police cars proceeds from the church in Platteville to the cemetery in nearby Livingston Thursday afternoon.

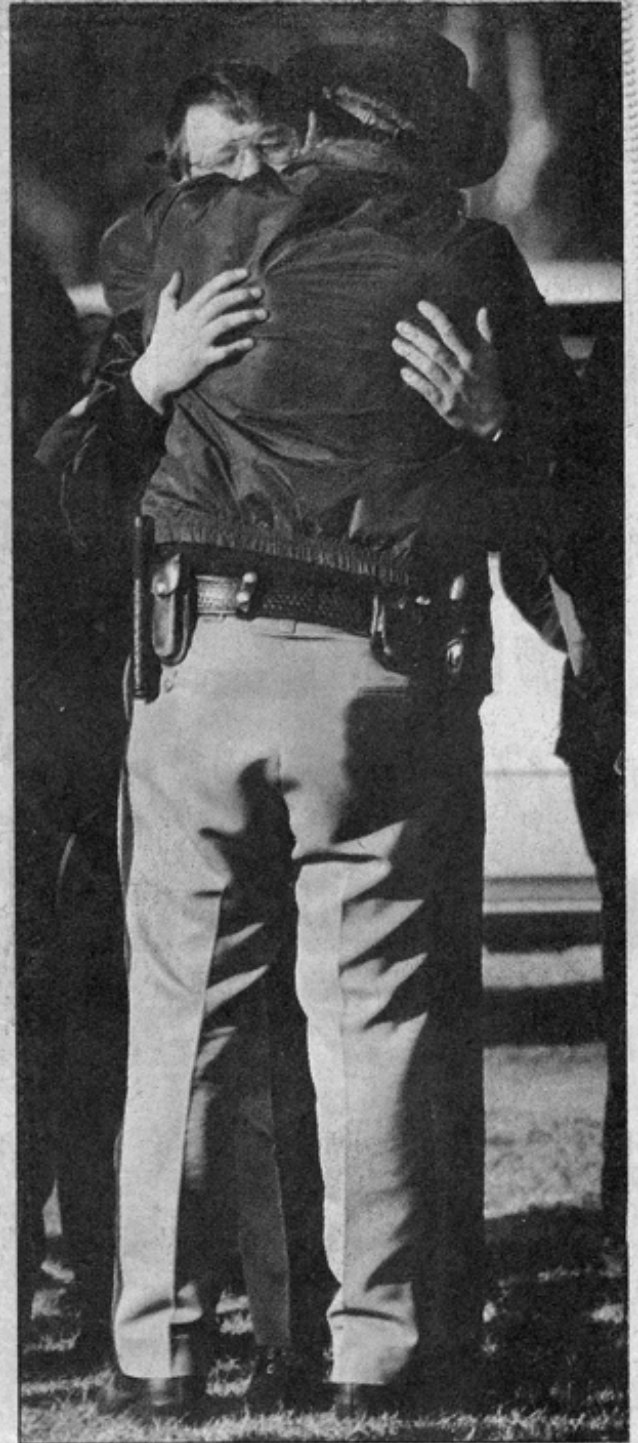
## When an officer is slain, comrades show their colors

LIVINGSTON, Wis. — Police officers from at least four states converged on Livingston Thursday for the funeral of Thomas Reuter, a Grant County deputy sheriff shot to death Sunday night in the line of duty.

Estimates for the number of squad cars at either the church in Platteville or the cemetery in Livingston ranged upward to 300. An estimated 700 officers were among the mourners in

services in St. Mary's Catholic Church.

Departments represented at the service included: La Crosse County, city of La Crosse, Onalaska, West Salem, Jackson County, Crawford County, Prairie du Chien, Boscobel, Janesville, Milwaukee and Milwaukee County, Waukesha County, Winnebago County, Eau Claire, Rochester, Minn., Cuba City and Decorah, Iowa.



Mourners comfort each other in their sorrow.

LaCrosse Tribune  
3-23-90

# 'In the line of duty'

## Family, friends bury fallen police officer

**"Livingston, With The Good Earth All Around"**

— Welcome sign at the edge of this Grant County village of 680.

□

By **TERRY BURT**  
Tribune regional reporter

**L**IVINGSTON, Wis. — Diane Reuter laid to rest her best friend Thursday afternoon. Her husband, Thomas, a Grant County deputy sheriff, was shot to death Sunday night on a darkened rural road a couple of miles from Livingston.

"Tom has made me so proud ... my very best friend," she said near the close of an impressive service

**“**We don't like mystery. Yet life's mysterious.

—The Rev. Arnold Reuter

in Grant County's largest church. The standing-room-only service was attended by an estimated 700 law enforcement officers from at least four states, and by a host of state and local officials, including Wisconsin Gov.



Ron Johnson of the Tribune staff



"I'm going to miss him," Diane Reuter said, her voice soft and firm.

St. Mary's Catholic Church was packed with about 1,400 mourners for the funeral of the first Wisconsin police officer fatally shot in the line of duty in five years.

Reuter was killed by a shotgun blast about 11:30 p.m. Sunday after stopping to assist a man on a tractor, according to Grant County police. Rural Livingston farmhand Gregory A. Coulthard, 18, is charged with first-degree murder.

One officer estimated 300 squad cars from police agencies in a four-state area lined a several block area around the church and led the procession to the Rock Church Cemetery, rural Livingston, barely a mile from where the 38-year-old deputy was killed.

"In the line of duty," said the Rev. Harold Zimmick, commenting on the phrase that is often used in connection with Reuter's death.

Zimmick, pastor at the United Methodist Church in Livingston, called Reuter "faithful, both professionally and personally," to his duty.

"He always wanted to be a police officer; it was his calling," said Zimmick, adding, "He has fulfilled his calling ... faithful in the line of duty."

On the personal side, Zimmick, pastor of the church the Reuter family attends, characterized the fallen deputy as a devoted husband and father. "He and Diane were a team," Zimmick said. And as a team they raised their five children: 15-year-old twin sons,

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See **SLAIN**, back page

# ■ Slain officer buried

Continued from front page

Dan and Doug; Sherry, 10, the only girl in the lot; Tim, 13, and Andrew, 6.

Zimmick, a personal friend as well as a pastor to the family, recalled a cold night last fall when he and Tom attended an Iowa-Grant High School football game.

"Tom remarked, 'What are we doing here?'"

"He knew why he was there — two of his sons were playing," Zimmick said.

The Rev. Arnold Reuter, Tom's uncle and a Catholic priest from New Lisbon, also officiated at the service. "Some call it murder — unjustifiable homicide," he said.

Trying to make sense of a senseless act leaves many confused, angry, sad, grieving and perhaps hostile, he said.

"We don't like mystery. Yet life's mysterious."

Characterizing his nephew as a man who "really appreciated nature," Father Reuter said Tom was a conservationist concerned about clean water and pure air, "yet his greatest resource — his own life — was wasted."

He said his nephew loved guns and taught gun safety, "yet his life ended by irresponsible use of a gun.

"He was a mature man, felled by one less mature ... he liked to help people ... a man of service

Pray he'll be the last — not only here, but everywhere.'

—The Rev. Arnold Reuter

and a man of ethics — that made him wonderful."

Saying the killing of a police officer is "a heinous crime," Father Reuter said his nephew's death "appears to be a waste, but we must not let it be in vain."

A few days ago, he said, hardly anyone outside the immediate area knew Tom. "But look around you ... today we salute a family man, a fallen officer."

Father Reuter asked that Tom's memory and values be kept alive.

"Cops," he said, "are exposed to risks." His nephew was the first police officer ever killed in the line of duty in Grant County. "Pray he'll be the last — not only here, but everywhere."

Grant County Chief Deputy Lloyd Runde said Tom Reuter was a great law enforcement officer.

The department "never received complaints about his contact with the public," said Runde. "He treated the public with respect ... we in turn are paying him the respect he deserves."

Law officers from throughout the Midwest, he said, "mourn the loss of a friend."

Grant County residents in general also were mourning. A sidewalk vigil lined streets in Platteville and Livingston. Occupied cars were parked in almost every turn-in and sideroad intersecting Hwy. 80 as the lengthy procession of squad cars, red and blue lights flashing, made the 15-mile trip from the church to the cemetery.

Many flags in the county were flying at half-staff, including one in the yard of the elementary school in Livingston, where Tom and Diane Reuter's children attend classes.

Barely a mile away, a small army of row upon row of peace officers lined three sides of the gravesite in military-like formations.

The sea of blue and brown uniforms drew to attention and, when the command was given, executed a hand salute.

A three-volley gun salute was fired by a Dane County honor squad, the mournful sound of "Taps" was blown and the flag was removed from the coffin, folded and handed to Diane Reuter.

Less than two hours after she had told the congregation how proud she was of her husband, Diane's very best friend was laid to rest in the good earth of Livingston.

## Lives on the line

Violent death is never easy to accept or understand. When it comes to a police officer, someone sworn to protect us from society's miscreants, it strikes a special chord of grief and guilt in all law-abiding citizens.

About 1,400 people, including more than 700 other police officers, gathered on a cold spring day last week to bury Grant County Sheriff's Deputy Tom Reuter. Thousands more throughout the state shared in mourning for the slain officer, a husband and father of five, gunned down in the line of duty.

Adding to the horror is the knowledge that Reuter was murdered during what first appeared to be one of the more mundane tasks pulled from a police officer's job jar: Aiding a disabled motorist. But when Reuter stopped to help a tractor on country road in the middle of the night, instead of getting thanks, he got a shotgun blast to the heart.

Think about Tom Reuter the next time the sight of a police car in your rear-view mirror gives you palpitations of the heart and makes you curse under your breath. Think about Tom Reuter the next time you have a flat tire and start muttering "Where's a cop when you really need one?"

The answer is: Putting their lives on the line, every day, for you.

J-26-90

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WISCONSIN STATE JOURNAL

# Deputy died 'in the line of duty'

By Roger A. Gribble  
Wisconsin State Journal

PLATTEVILLE — More than 700 police officers from several Midwestern states were among 1,400 mourners who packed St. Mary's Catholic Church Thursday to pay tribute to slain Grant County sheriff's deputy Tom Reuter, 38.

"A young and vibrant life has been cut short," said the Rev. Harold Zimmick, pastor of Livingston United Methodist Church.

The deputy, father of five, was gunned down Sunday night. A rural Livingston farmhand driving a tractor whom Reuter had stopped has been charged with first-degree murder in the shotgun slaying.

"The one thought that stirs within me about Tom is the five words in his obituary — 'in the line of duty,'" said Zimmick, a friend of the family. "He was faithful in the line of duty, professionally and personally."

Caravans of squad cars converged on Platteville for the afternoon funeral service. One law officer estimated there were 155 vehicles. Officers formed long lines outside the church, waiting to sign a guest register.

Reuter's widow and children stood alongside his open casket at the rear of the church as many filed by to pay their respects.

Later, the white oak casket was closed and wheeled to the front of the church. On its lid was a bouquet of red roses tied with a ribbon on which was printed "Husband — Hunting Buddy." Reuter's brown, Stetson-style uniform hat was also there.

Among officials occupying front seats were Gov. Tommy Thompson and Attorney General Don Hanaway, the state's top cop.

Seated in an aisle near the back of the church was Ivan, the Dane County Sheriff's Department no-



State Journal photos/CHRIS CORSMEIER

Family members, including widow (holding flag) and children (one wearing his dad's hat), bid farewell to slain deputy at graveside rites Thursday.

the casket was wheeled past him, then became agitated and had to be taken outside. Later, Reuter's two youngest children petted the dog before the start of graveside rites at Rock Church cemetery

platteville, Wis. "I have no control," he added, "but at times the line we walk seems rather thin."

He described Reuter as "a friend of everyone in the department and community," a man who "had the highest respect and performed his duties with integrity."



## ‘In the line of duty’

Murders of law enforcement officials are in the news relatively frequently, but they happen somewhere else—New York, Los Angeles, Miami, or some other large metropolitan area. That is part of what makes the news of the shooting death of Grant County Deputy Sheriff Tom Reuter so shocking.

Not only has this been devastating to Tom's family, but it also has been an intensely difficult experience for Grant County's police officers and sheriff's deputies. Indeed, it's been a shock to nearly everyone in Grant County, because something like this is unheard of in rural areas.

We extend our most sincere sympathies to the family of Tom Reuter, who by all accounts was an exemplary deputy sheriff. We hope that it's some consolation to his family that he sacrificed his life protecting all of us and doing something he obviously enjoyed. We also hope that Reuter's killer will be brought to justice. www.oregonlive.com

### *Continued from Page 1A*

cursed. But there were many in Livingston who said he made it possible for us to sleep better at night."

The Rev. Arnold Reuter, the slain officer's uncle and pastor of St. Paul's Catholic Church in New Lisbon, described Reuter as a conservationist who was concerned about the land, air and water, "yet his life was wasted and his family is devastated."

Reuter was also an avid hunter who "loved and treasured guns, yet a gun ended his life," the priest said. "He taught gun safety at area schools, yet an act with a gun took his life. He was for law and order, yet a lawless act took his life.

"Killing an officer is a heinous crime, for these men and women are dedicated to keeping their country strong and free," he said. "Tom's death appears to be a waste, but we must not let it be in vain."

After the church ceremony the squad cars, red-and-blue lights

flashing, formed a lengthy procession along Highway 80 to Livingston for formal graveside rites. Passengers in cars and trucks that were parked along the route watched; many joined the line.

At the cemetery, where a bitter wind lashed at the mourners, a Dane County Sheriff's Department honor guard escorted the flag-draped coffin from the hearse to the gravesite, fired three volleys to salute their fallen comrade and stood at attention during the playing of taps.

The large flag that covered the coffin was carefully folded as Dianne Reuter looked on stoically, surrounded by her five children. Her daughter, Sherry, 10, wiped tears from her eyes.

The neatly folded flag and Reuter's hat were then presented to his widow. Son Andrew, 6, donned the hat and stared at the coffin as he and other members of the family and friends brushed away tears while making their final farewells.

# Reuter was a fallen warrior

**W**illiam Shakespeare wrote in his play "Julius Caesar" that "the evil men do lives after them; the good is oft interred with their bones."

That should not be the case with Grant County sheriff's deputy Thomas Reuter, who was buried Thursday with all of the ceremony and honor due a fallen warrior.

Reuter, killed in the line of duty by a shotgun blast to the chest, was a fallen warrior, one of thousands whose lives have ended abruptly and prematurely because they had sworn of their own free will to enforce the laws of the land.

For the thousands of tri-state residents who watched from afar this past week as the story of the death and burial of this law enforcement officer unfolded, many questions remain.

We know the basics of what happened, and when and where.

The how and why of it elude us, and may escape us forever.

In one sense, the how and why are important. They explain the inexplicable and remove uncertainty. Human nature is comforted by the understanding explanations foster.

But in another sense, the how and why matter not at all. They cannot change the stark fact: A man is dead because he carried out his sworn duty in the manner he thought proper.

At times, the public is hard on the very law enforcement officers it relies on. People don't always like their police and sometimes find it easy to defy, revile, ignore and abuse them. They also find it easy to forget that if those officers weren't there, their towns would not be as peaceful, their criminals as few and their lives and property as safe.

They also find it easy to forget what every officer and every officer's family lives with: The knowledge that every time an officer goes to work, his life and future go on the line.

The hundreds of law enforcement officers who attended Reuter's funeral came to honor a fallen comrade. But their presence also acknowledged that what had happened to him could happen to any one of them at any moment. And their numbers made a statement that law enforcement is more than a job, more than a sworn duty. It is a tie that binds each officer to every officer in every department, no matter its size, no matter its branch, all across the land and even around the world.

That kind of bond, so strong that it leads officers to travel for hours to mourn and honor a man they never knew, never heard of before, is unique and perhaps unfathomable.

Invoking Thursday's overwhelming expression of that bond, and thus providing tri-state residents with a glimpse of how powerful brotherly love can be, was the last and crowning achievement of Reuter's career.

Telegraph Herald 3-25-90



## Police Officers, Grant County Say Good-Bye







Slain Grant County deputy Thomas Reuter was buried last Thursday afternoon in an observance which filled St. Mary's Church to overflow.

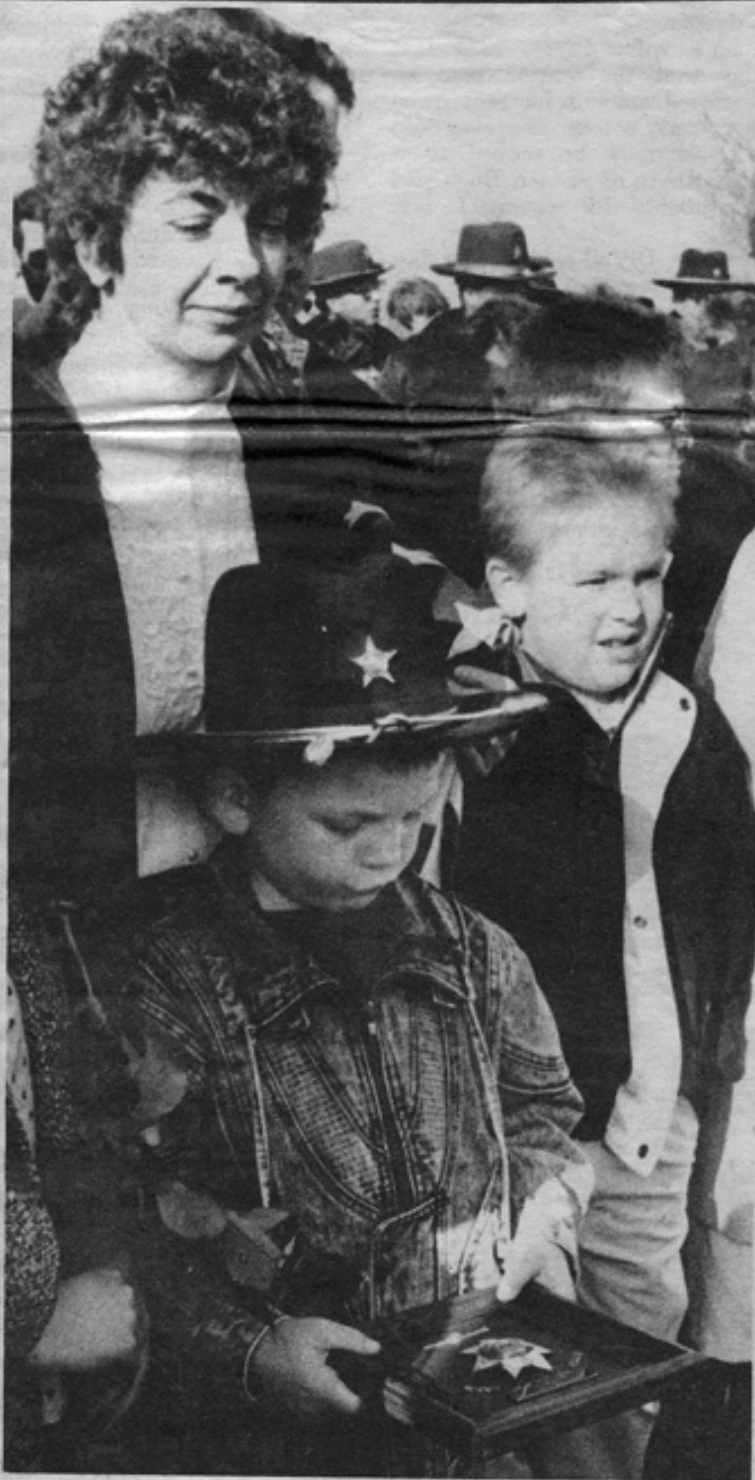
Reuter was shot to death a week ago in answering a motorist assist call near Livingston. Gregory Coulthard of Livingston has been charged in the slaying.

Police officers from all over the three-state area attended the funeral with more than 250 squad cars forming the procession from St. Mary's to the Rock Church Cemetery in Livingston.

Deputy Reuter leaves a wife and five children.

Platteville Journal

3-27-90



## Of Hats and Heroes

by Colleen Schultz

When Tom Reuter's little six-year-old son Andrew put on his father's uniform hat during those quiet, prayerful closing moments at the cemetery, all of us were held in a reverence that could be felt, but not spoken.

For a man's hat is very personal. When part of his official uniform, it also stands for authority, duty and purpose, devotion and dedication.

In Tom Reuter's case, the hat signifies heroism.

Maybe he was born a hero, or maybe he became that way. It doesn't matter. What matters is that he was wearing the hat when he was killed in the line of duty, stopping to offer help to someone who took his life.

During the funeral home visitation, the star gleamed on the hat that was set on a pedestal.

The next day, with star facing front, the hat rode proudly on the closed lid of the flag-draped coffin as it was borne down the center aisle of St. Mary's Church.

Severed forever from its wearer, the hat touched emotions more deeply than any eulogy, however eloquent.

At the cemetery, Andrew held the hat with both hands, placed it on his head, looked up at his mother and offered a heart-rending smile.

The boy, the hat and the shy, sweet smile—what words can consecrate them?

The sun, which had hidden beneath cold, grey clouds during the funeral service, shone at the cemetery upon the sea of humanity—hundreds of law officers, family and friends, who mourned with a grief too deep for telling.

A beam of mid-afternoon sunlight warmed the family standing near the flag-draped coffin.

Just for a moment, in the holy hush that followed, the star on the hat seemed to shine more brightly.

### A Family Mourns

Andrew Reuter, 6, dons the hat and holds the badge that belonged to his father, Grant County Sheriff Deputy Tom Reuter.

Behind Andrew is his mother, Diane Reuter. A cousin, Wesley Ingersoll, 10, of Platteville, joins the family in the graveside vigil at Rock Church Cemetery.

## MEMORIAL EDITION --

### *A Tribute to Deputy Tom Reuter*

Photo Insert, Pages 7-10

# The RURAL REGISTER

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Vol. 3 No. 45 Thursday, March 29, 1990

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APRIL  
**1**

## Hundreds Grieve for Slain Deputy

by Colleen Schultz

Diane Reuter of Livingston said goodbye to her best friend last week at funeral services for her slain husband, Tom Reuter.

Addressing a crowd of about 1500 mourners at St. Mary's Catholic Church, Platteville, where

Reuter worshipped as a child, Diane said, "He's my very best friend and I'm going to miss him."

Tom Reuter, 38, was killed in the line of duty by a single shotgun blast to the chest shortly before midnight on Sunday, March 18.

Law enforcement officers from Wisconsin, Illinois, Iowa and Wyoming came to pay their final respects, many standing outside the church for hours before the 1 p.m. service.

Gov. Tommy Thompson and Attorney General Donald

Hanaway were among officials present.

Rev. Harold Zimmick, pastor of Livingston United Methodist Church, said, "Tom Reuter was killed in the line of duty; a young and vibrant life has been cut short."

In emotional tones, Rev. Zimmick spoke of Reuter's devotion to his job as an officer and to his family.

A father of five children—twin sons Doug and Dan, 15; Sherry, 10; Tim, 13; and Andrew, 6,—Reuter was remembered by his uncle, Fr. Arnold Reuter of New Lisbon, who said his death was senseless.

"Tom's death appears to be a waste, but we must not let it be in vain," Fr. Reuter said.

A statewide turnout was represented, with Platteville Police Chief Jim Enfeld in charge of the honor guard.

"This is a rough day," Enfeld said. "You can't believe this can happen to one of your men."

A procession of more than 200 squad cars, with red and blue lights flashing, escorted the flag-draped coffin to Rock Church Cemetery in Livingston.

The 14-mile long procession—from Platteville to Livingston—met with dozens of Livingston residents who turned out for a sidewalk vigil as the cars passed.

Grant County Chief Deputy Lloyd Runde, who rode in the hearse, saluted them.

The casket lid held a bouquet of red roses tied with a ribbon imprinted with the words: "Husband—Hunting Buddy."

Reuter's uniform hat was on top of the casket, later to be worn by his six-year-old son, Andrew, at the closing moments of the graveside rites.

Seated in the church aisle and part of the honor guard was Ivan, the Dane County Sheriff's Department police dog that tracked down Tom's alleged assailant hours after the shooting. The dog was also part of honor activities at the cemetery.

Ivan, who was six years old on Tuesday, two days before Andrew Reuter's seventh birthday, received a birthday present—a rawhide dogbone—from the Reuter children.

Among the hundreds of memorials, cards and letters, the family has received a sympathy note from the White House. It said simply, "Our thoughts and prayers are with you, George Bush and Barbara Bush."

See GRIEVE, page 10

A preliminary hearing was set for Wednesday morning in Grant County Circuit Court. The hearing was held after the newspaper went to press.

Details of the hearing will be forthcoming next week.

Grant County Sheriff Herb Hottenstein expressed his admiration for the large turnout of police officers to honor their fallen comrade.

"He was an outstanding officer," Hottenstein said. "Everyone looked up to him; he was less than satisfied if he wasn't doing or being the best."

Runde said of Reuter, "We mourn the loss of a great friend. The question is—why did it happen?"

We face fears each day as law enforcement officers," Runde said. "The line we walk seems rather thin at times. Tom had the highest respect; he performed his duties with integrity, not occasionally, but daily."

A poem written by a close family friend, Livingston sixth grader, Erin Reddy, was read during the service. (Please turn to Memorial Section for poem.)

The presence of so many people was a moving and powerful tribute, Rev. Zimmick said.

"We are gathered here in hope because Jesus died in the line of duty," Rev. Zimmick said.

"But we must go beyond the why to the who—the God who hurts with us."

"Tom is the first Grant County Deputy to be killed," Fr. Reuter said. "We hope by God's grace it is the last—not only here but everywhere."

Reuter's accused assailant, 18-year-old Gregory Coulthard, Livingston, was charged with first degree murder in Grant County Circuit Court last Tuesday.

Coulthard, on probation for a drunk driving charge, is being held without bond in Richland County Jail.

*"I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in me will live, even though he dies; and whoever lives and believes in me will never die..."*

*John 11: 25, 26*



At St. Mary's

In the photo above, the statue seems to brood over the solemnities for slain Deputy Tom Reuter.

At right, Sherry Reuter, his 10-year-old daughter, holds a single rose at graveside rites.

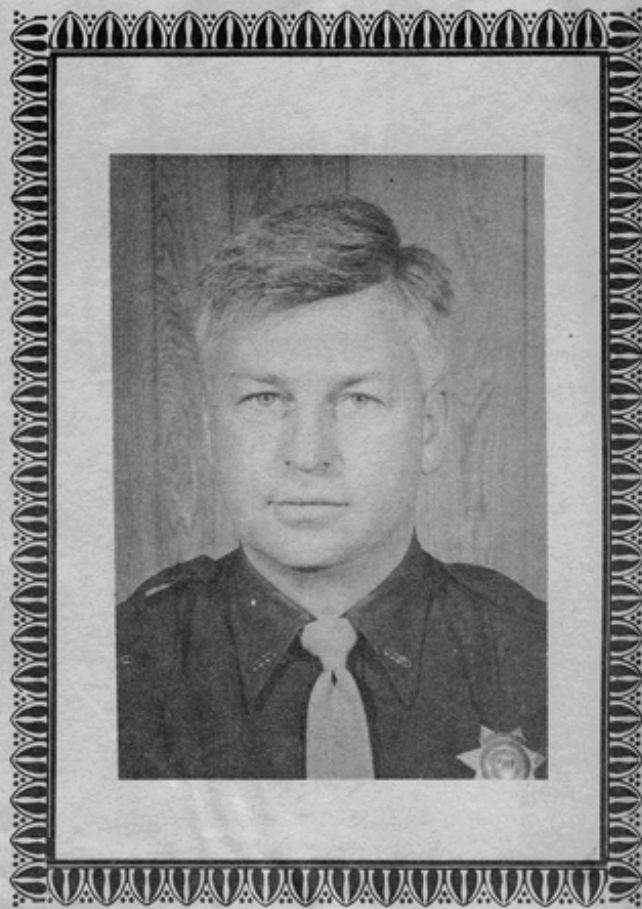
In the lower right photo, the 1965 graduating class of St. Mary's Catholic Grade School remembered their classmate.

#### CREDITS:

Photo of St. Mary's grade school memorial by Dale Stierman.

Photos and stories in Memorial Section by Colleen Schultz.

Photos of Tom Reuter and family courtesy of Diane Reuter.



In Loving Memory of

*Thomas L. Reuter*

April 17, 1951 ☞ March 19, 1990

## Visitation Draws Hundreds

A contingent of more than 300 law enforcement officers from Wisconsin, Iowa and Illinois paid their respects to slain Grant County Deputy Tom Reuter of Livingston at the Soman Funeral Home during a special morning visitation on Wednesday, March 21.

"It was like looking at a sea of uniforms," John Soman said. "The parking lot was a mass of humanity."

During the public visitation, hundreds of mourners filed past

the flag-draped open coffin in the afternoon and evening.

Reuter's uniform hat was placed on a pedestal at the head of the coffin.

Pictures of his children were placed in the coffin at the head, and a wedding portrait stood on a table nearby.

Baskets of flowers bearing the names of grade school children, sports teams, law enforcement agencies and the governor banked all sides of the room.

Montfort Rural Register



VISITATION

Wednesday, March 21, 1990  
2:00 - 9:00 p.m.  
Soman Funeral Home  
Montfort, Wisconsin

FUNERAL SERVICES

Thursday, March 22, 1990  
at 1:00 p.m.

St. Mary's Catholic Church  
Platteville, Wisconsin

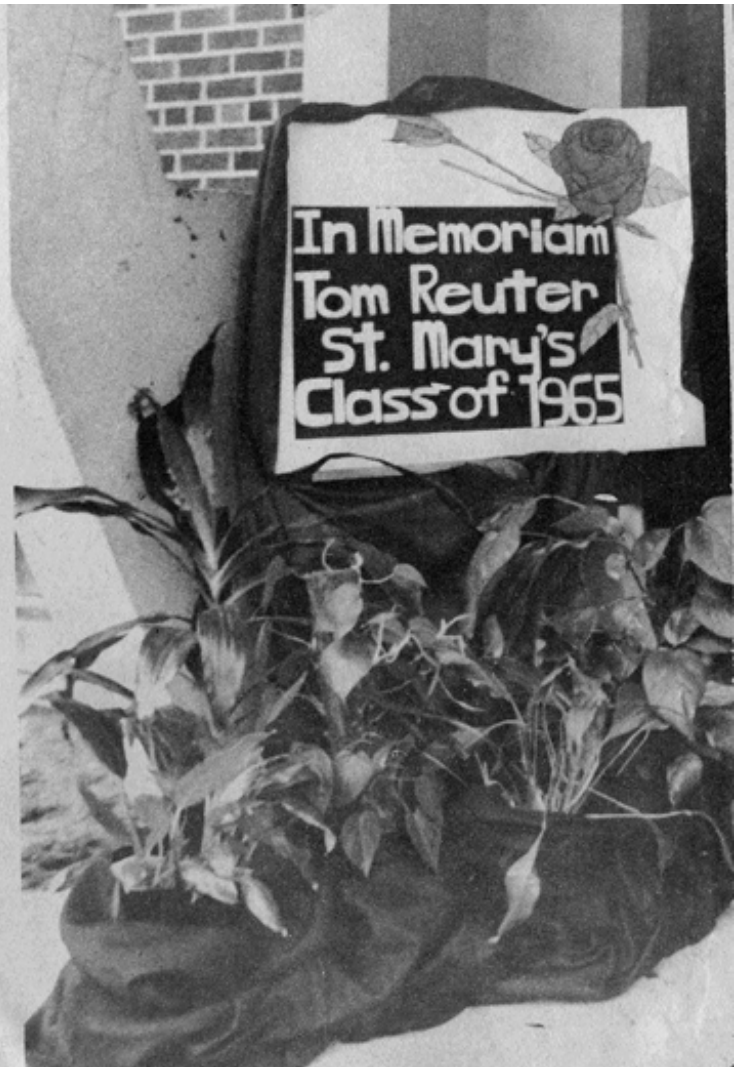
Rev. Harold Zimmick, Father Michael Doro  
and Father Arnold Reuter Co-officiating  
Burial at the Rock Church Cemetery, Livingston

PALLBEARERS

Harold Reddy	Ryan Ingersoll
Curt Mayo	Phil Johnston
Chris Mayo	Rex Brown
Mark Mayo	Larry Klaas

MUSIC

Karen and Susan Lundell






Hundreds of law enforcement officers thronged the streets adjacent to St. Mary's Church. In the photos at right are Sgt. Laurel Skrode of the UW-Platteville Police awaiting entry to the church and

Janet Payne, holding her 11 month-old-granddaughter, Cassandra Pete, at Livingston's sidewalk vigil.

Montfort Rural Register

3-29-90



A decorative arch of stylized flowers and leaves frames the top of the page. The arch is composed of several large, five-petaled flowers with detailed centers, connected by a dark, curved line. The floral design is symmetrical and extends down the sides of the page.

## Look to the Rainbow

Livingston elementary school children wrote sympathy cards for the Reuter family.

The following poem was written by sixth grader Erin Reddy and was read by Erin at the funeral.

*Don't Worry, be happy!  
We'll always be there for you!!!*

*With this loss,  
is a loss well gained,  
At the end of this  
stormy shower of sadness  
Is a rainbow  
colored in happiness  
I'm sure that rainbow will come.  
In tragic times and happy times,  
you'll always have friends and family  
here to say "We care."*

*Forever here to help,  
Erin Reddy*



## Scriptures Read at the Funeral, Graveside Services

*"Who shall separate us from the love of  
Christ? Shall trouble, or hardship or  
persecution?"*

*No, in all these things we are more than  
conquerors through Him who loved us..."*

*Romans 8: 35,37*



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Honoring their fallen comrade, Dane County Sheriff's Department representatives fired a three volley salute and stood at attention during taps.

*"For the trumpet will sound, the dead will be raised imperishable and we will be changed.*

*Where O death is your victory?*

*Where O death is your sting?*

*But thanks be to God! He gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ."*

*I Corinthians 15: 52, 55, 57*

*"But from everlasting to everlasting the Lord's love is with those who fear him, and his righteousness with their children's children."*

*Psalm 103: 17*

*"Because of the Lord's great love we are not consumed, for his compassions never fail. They are new every morning; great is your faithfulness..."*

*Lamentations 3: 22, 23*



Montfort Rural Register

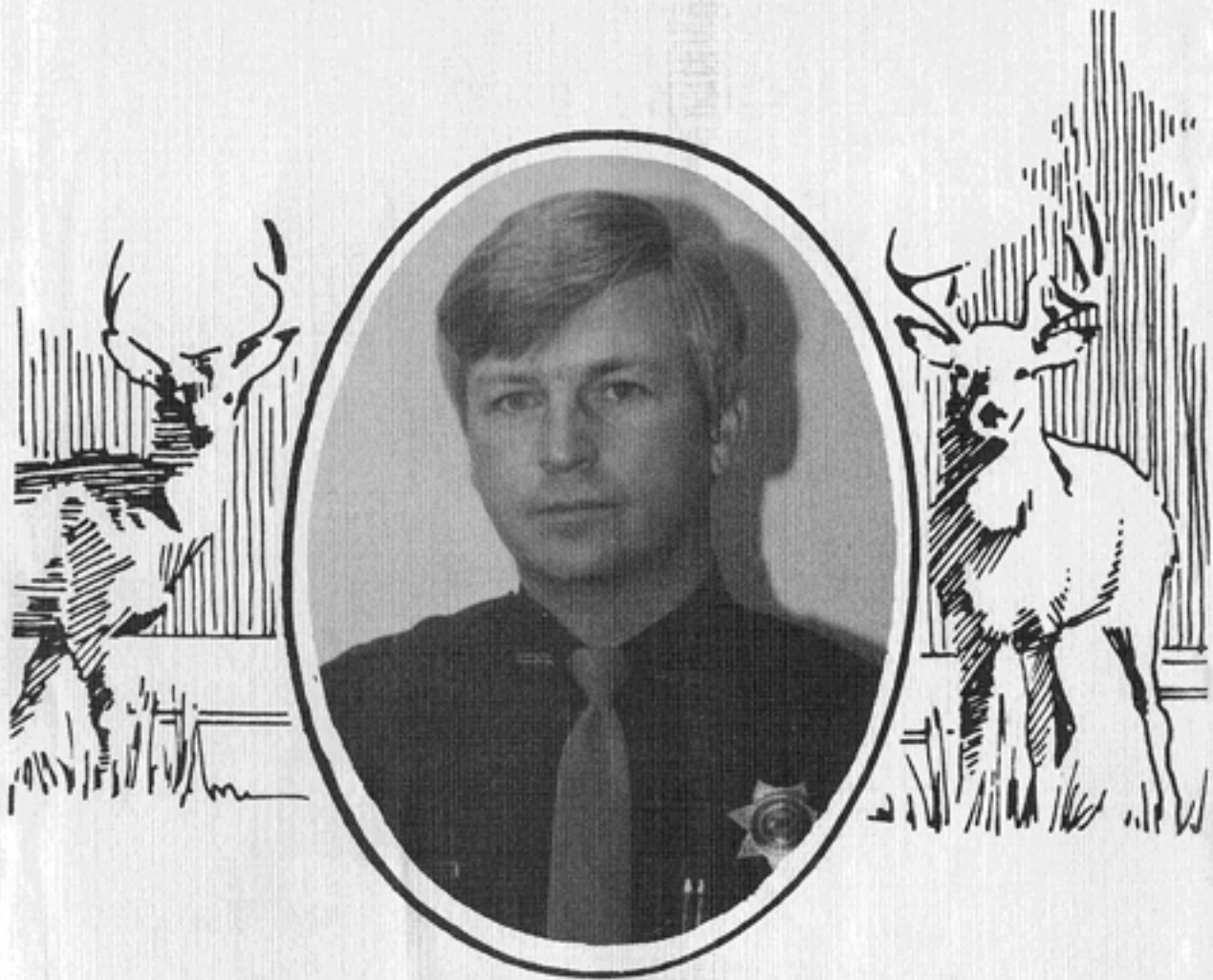
3-29-90



Photo at right shows honor guard from Vernon County and Green Bay.

Clockwise from honor guard are Ivan, the dog that tracked down the slain deputy's assailant, casket at graveside rites in Rock Church Cemetery and law officers folding the flag while taps are played.





In Loving Memory of

*Thomas L. Reuter*

April 17, 1951 ☞ March 19, 1990

many, many people that he has touched in his short 38 years living and working in Grant County.

Tom was a wonderful husband, father and friend. He will be missed by family, friends and fellow officers.

### VISITATION

Wednesday, March 21, 1990

2:00 - 9:00 p.m.

Soman Funeral Home

Montfort, Wisconsin

### FUNERAL SERVICES

Thursday, March 22, 1990

at 1:00 p.m.

St. Mary's Catholic Church

Platteville, Wisconsin

Rev. Harold Zimmick, Father Michael Doro  
and Father Arnold Reuter Co-officiating

Burial at the Rock Church Cemetery, Livingston

### PALLBEARERS

Harold Reddy	Ryan Ingersoll
Curt Mayo	Phil Johnston
Chris Mayo	Rex Brown
Mark Mayo	Larry Klaas

### MUSIC

Karen and Susan Lundell



*We have beauty by God's Touch . . .*

*His flowers,*

*His trees,*

*His lakes and rivers.*

*We are comforted by knowing*

*Our loved one has found*

*Eternal Rest*

*In the midst of all His wonders.*

SOUTHWEST GRAPHICS, Box 98, 424 Main Street, Darlington, WI 53030



**GRANT COUNTY DEPUTY  
THOMAS REUTER  
FUNERAL ARRANGEMENTS  
MARCH 22, 1990**

*The following will be a summary of law enforcement activity in honor*

*OF  
DEPUTY THOMAS REUTER*

*The Platteville Police Department was honored to assist the Grant County Sheriff's department during this trying time. The following were the duty assignments:*

<i>In charge of law enforcement coordination:</i>	<i>Chief James L. Enfelt</i>
<i>In charge of staging area:</i>	<i>Captain James Jones &amp; Plt. James Roberts</i>
<i>In charge of parking arrangements:</i>	<i>Sergeant Richard Zenz</i>
<i>In charge of church area:</i>	<i>Plt. Kathy Hottenstein &amp; Plt. Robert Holzer</i>
<i>In charge of shuttle buses:</i>	<i>Sgt. Thomas Schmid &amp; Plt. Daniel Jacobson</i>
<i>In charge of routine patrol:</i>	<i>Sgt. James Zimmer &amp; Plt. Kevin Wunderlin</i>
<i>In charge of traffic control:</i>	<i>Lafayette County Sheriff's Department</i>
<i>In charge of traffic control on Highway 80:</i>	<i>Iowa County Sheriff's Dept. &amp; the Dodgeville Police Dept.</i>
<i>In charge of traffic control on County E :</i>	<i>Iowa County &amp; Richland County Platteville Police Department</i>

**DEPUTY REUTER'S FUNERAL WAS ATTENDED BY:**

*Approximately 1,245 law enforcement officers attended this funeral. These officers came from 3 federal agencies, 5 different states, 119 municipalities, 39 sheriff's departments and a variety of other agencies. A brief attempt to describe these activities follows.*

FEDERAL AGENCIES:

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

UNITED STATES SECRET SERVICE

INTERNAL REVENUE SERVICE

MILITARY AGENCIES:

FORT McCOY PROVOST MARSHAL

FORT McCOY MILITARY POLICE

SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENTS

ADAMS COUNTY

CALUMET COUNTY

CLARK COUNTY

CLAYTON COUNTY

CRAWFORD COUNTY

DANE COUNTY

DODGE COUNTY

DUBUQUE COUNTY

DUNN COUNTY

EAU CLAIRE COUNTY

FOND DULAC COUNTY

GRANT COUNTY

GREEN COUNTY

GREENLAKE COUNTY

IOWA COUNTY SHERIFF'S PATROL

IOWA COUNTY

JACKSON COUNTY

JEFFERSON COUNTY

JO DAVIES COUNTY

JUNEAU COUNTY

LA CROSSE COUNTY

LAFAYETTE COUNTY

LANGLADE COUNTY

MARQUETTE COUNTY

MILWAUKEE COUNTY

ONIEDA COUNTY

OZAUKEE COUNTY

PIERCE COUNTY

RACINE COUNTY

RICHLAND COUNTY

ROCK COUNTY

SAUK COUNTY

*JHAWANO COUNTY*

*STEPHENSON COUNTY*

*VERNON COUNTY*

*WALWORTH COUNTY*

*WAUKESHA COUNTY*

*WAUPACA COUNTY*

**STATE OF WISCONSIN AGENCIES**

*GOVERNOR TOMMY THOMPSON*

*ATTORNEY GENERAL DONALD HANAWAY*

*DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE*

*CRIME INFORMATION BUREAU*

*DEPARTMENT OF CRIMINAL INVESTIGATION*

*WISCONSIN PROFESSIONAL POLICE ASSOCIATION*

*WISCONSIN STATE PATROL*

*STATE CAPITOL POLICE*

*DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES WARDENS*

*WISCONSIN CHIEF'S OF POLICE ASSOCIATION*

*UW-PLATTEVILLE*

*UW-WHITEWATER*

*UW-MADISON*

*JUT OF STATE AGENCIES:*

*ASBURY POLICE DEPARTMENT - IOWA*

*CLAYTON COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT - IOWA*

*CORAVILLE POLICE DEPARTMENT - IOWA*

*DECORAH POLICE DEPARTMENT - IOWA*

*DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES - IOWA*

*DUBUQUE POLICE DEPARTMENT - IOWA*

*DUBUQUE COUNTY SHERIFF - IOWA*

*EAST DUBUQUE POLICE DEPARTMENT - ILLINOIS*

*EVANDALE POLICE DEPARTMENT - IOWA*

*FREEPORT POLICE DEPARTMENT - ILLINOIS*

*GALENA POLICE DEPARTMENT - ILLINOIS*

*ILLINOIS STATE PATROL*

*IOWA STATE PATROL*

*JO DAVIES SHIRIFF'S DEPARTMENT - ILLINOIS*

*MCGREGOR POLICE DEPARTMENT - IOWA*

*MONTICELLO POLICE DEPARTMENT - IOWA*

*ROCHESTER POLICE DEPARTMENT - MINNESOTA*

*ROCKFORD POLICE DEPARTMENT - ILLINOIS*

*STOCKTON POLICE DEPARTMENT - ILLINOIS*

*WARREN POLICE DEPARTMENT - ILLINOIS*

*WHEATLAND POLICE DEPARTMENT - WYOMING*

LATE MUNICIPAL POLICE DEPARTMENTS

<i>ADAMS</i>	<i>DODGEVILLE</i>
<i>ALTOONA</i>	<i>DOUSMAN</i>
<i>ASBURY</i>	<i>EAST TROY</i>
<i>ASHWAUBENON</i>	<i>EAU CLAIRE</i>
<i>AVOCA</i>	<i>ELM GROVE</i>
<i>BARABOO</i>	<i>ELM GROVE</i>
<i>BARNEVELD</i>	<i>EVANSDALE</i>
<i>BELMONT</i>	<i>EVANSVILLE</i>
<i>BELOIT</i>	<i>FENNIMORE</i>
<i>BENTON</i>	<i>FITCHBURG</i>
<i>BLACK RIVER FALLS</i>	<i>FOND Du LAC</i>
<i>BLACK EARTH</i>	<i>GALESVILLE</i>
<i>BOSCOBEL</i>	<i>GLENDALE</i>
<i>BRODHEAD</i>	<i>GRAFTON</i>
<i>BROOKFIELD</i>	<i>GRATIOT</i>
<i>CAMPBELL</i>	<i>GREEN LAKE</i>
<i>CASSVILLE</i>	<i>GREEN BAY</i>
<i>COLUMBUS</i>	<i>HAZEL GREEN</i>
<i>COTTAGE GROVE</i>	<i>HILLSBORO</i>
<i>CROSS PLAINS</i>	<i>HORICON</i>
<i>CUBA CITY</i>	<i>JANESVILLE</i>
<i>DARLINGTON</i>	<i>KENOSHA</i>
<i>DICKEYVILLE</i>	<i>LA CROSSE</i>

*LAFARGE*

*LAGRANGE*

*LANCASTER*

*LANDALAKE*

*LINDEN*

*LONE ROCK*

*MADISON*

*MANAWA*

*MARATHON*

*MARSHFIELD*

*MAZOMANIE*

*McFARLAND*

*MIDDLETON*

*MILTON*

*MILWAUKEE*

*MINERAL POINT*

*MONONA*

*MONROE*

*MOUNT HOREB*

*MT. PLEASANT*

*MUSCODA*

*NEW GLARUS*

*OAKLAND*

*OCONOMOWOC*

*ONALASKA*

*OREGON*

*ORFORDVILLE*

*OSHKOSH*

*PARDEEVILLE*

*PEWAUKEE*

*PLATTEVILLE*

*PORTAGE*

*POTOSI*

*PRAIRIE DuCHIEN*

*PRINCETON*

*RACINE*

*READSTOWN*

*REEDSBURG*

*RICHLAND CENTER*

*RIVER FALLS*

*ROME*

*SAUK CITY*

*SHAWANO*

*SHOREWOOD HILLS*

*SHULLSBURG*

*SOLDIERS GROVE*

*SOUTH WAYNE*

*SPRING GREEN*

*JEVENS POINT*  
*STODDARD*  
*SUN PRAIRIE*  
*TENNYSON*  
*TOWN OF SUMMIT*  
*TOWN OF MADISON*  
*TOWN OF CAMPBELL*  
*TREMPEALEAU*  
*VERONA*  
*VIOLA*  
*VIROQUA*  
*W.W.T.C. LACROSSE*  
*WATERTOWN*  
*WAUKESHA*  
*WAUSAU*  
*WEST ALLIS*  
*WEST BEND*  
*WEST SALEM*  
*WESTFIELD*  
*WISCONSIN RAPIDS*

## **SUMMARY OF ACTIVITY**

*THERE WERE 272 SQUAD CARS IN THE FUNERAL PROCESSION*

*THERE WERE 5 SQUAD CARS ASSIGNED INTERSECTIONS*

*THERE WERE 45 PERSONAL VEHICLES IN THE PROCESSION*

*THERE WERE APPROXIMATELY 20 SQUAD CARS THAT ATTENDED THE CHURCH SERVICE, BUT HAD TO LEAVE AFTER THE SERVICE.*

*THE FUNERAL PROCESSION WAS APPROXIMATELY 14 MILES LONG*

*THERE WERE 119 MUNICIPALITIES REPRESENTED*

*THERE WERE 39 SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENTS REPRESENTED*

*THERE WERE 20 OUT OF STATE LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES REPRESENTED*

*THERE WERE 8 STATE AGENCIES REPRESENTED*

*THERE WERE 3 FEDERAL AGENCIES REPRESENTED*

*THERE WERE 2 MILITARY AGENCIES REPRESENTED*

*THERE WERE APPROXIMATELY 1,245 LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS PRESENT*

*VAN FOR TRANSPORTING OFFICERS WERE DONATED BY:*

*STEPHEN'S MOTORS  
KOHNS AUTO REPAIR  
ROE'S AUTO MART  
UW-PLATTEVILLE*

*TAPS WERE SOUNDED BY WILLIAM DENNIS OF PLATTEVILLE*



# The Gospel

According  
To Eddie  
Tor

A week ago, on that lonely country road near Livingston, a little of each one of us here in southwestern Wisconsin died.

The tragic and senseless killing of a policeman is no small thing, especially here in Grant County, where one would expect to be immune from such violence.

By Richard Brockman  
Journal Publisher

I well remember some months ago watching with horror on the television news of a killing of a police officer in New York. The policeman, a young father of several children, had been working on ridding the streets of drug infestation, and I thought at the time how lucky I was to live here in Platteville, "where that kind of thing couldn't happen".

I am sure that many if not most of us felt the same way.

How terribly wrong we were.

Violence to a police officer is simply something that we can't tolerate in a civilized society. The police officer is the only thing that separates us from chaos, from the anarchy of living without any laws, any rules at all.

When we permit this type of thing to happen, none of us is safe.

The sight of 250 police cars, some of them from hundreds of miles away, preceding the hearse carrying the body of slain officer Tom Reuter, was a spectacular site...spectacular but horrifying. It was something that none of us who lives in Grant County would have ever expected to see (except on television and from some place else).

It is something that none of us ever wants to see again. There have been many times when I have publicly said how proud I was to be from Platteville, or even from this part of the state.

Last week was not one of those times.

I am amazed that we have not been flooded with letters to the editor on this tragedy. Perhaps people are too numb. Perhaps they just don't know what to say.

Yet, we had just one letter...an anonymous one which took the news media to task for too much publicity given to this death compared to other deaths. The letter claimed this tragedy was no more significant than an automobile accident in which death occurs.

Obviously, both are tragedies, but to my mind, there is a big, big difference.

The letter concludes: "we live in a sick society".

I guess so.

And I guess we all have to shoulder the blame for that.

As a society we have let the image of the police officer slip and slip and slip. We don't teach our children that they must have respect for the policeman and for the laws he or she stands behind.

We let our kids watch movies and television portraying crime and violence and we put up with a civilization riddled with drug abuse because it's the other guy's problem.

Instead of getting phone calls this past week and letters to the editor on how we can stop this from ever happening again, I heard a barrage of complaints about topless dancing in Platteville.

Where are our priorities?

It's not that the morality issue involved in the topless dancing petition is not important.

It is.

But it seems so petty when thrown into the

(Continued On Page 3)

## Gospel...

(Continued From Page 1)

shadows of the events of the past week.

As I stood watching the seemingly endless police cars file silently down Main st. last Thurs-

day afternoon, couldn't help but hear a young man, an elderly citizen, all the commotion about.

"We're buryin' hero," was the near full reply.

And, I thought, hope we never had occasion to do it again.

Platteville Journal  
3-27-90













