

Fatal stretch of road dedicated to Deputy Jeff Mitchell

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The stretch of desolate southeast Sacramento County road where Sacramento County Sheriff's Deputy Jeff Mitchell was slain almost two years ago was dedicated to the memory of the El Dorado Hills family man in a brief roadside ceremony on Monday morning, Oct. 20.

Mitchell was shot during an early morning traffic stop on Meiss Road, south of Highway 16, on Oct. 27, 2006.

The dedication was prompted by a request from the graduating cadets at the Palomar Police Academy in San Marcos.

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Village Life photo by Mike Roberts

ROADSIDE MEMORIAL — Sacramento County Department of Transportation workers install a sign dedicating a one mile stretch of Meiss Road to the memory of Deputy Jeff Mitchell, who was shot to death on the remote Sacramento County roadway on Oct. 27, 2006.

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During the ceremony, Senior Training Officer Damian Jackson explained that graduating cadets memorialize a fallen officer each year. They raise funds for the officer's family and invite them to their graduation.

County officials, including Sheriff John McGuinness and supervisors Don Nottoli, Roberta MacGlashan and Jimmie Yee and were also on hand to help unveil a sign which read "Sacramento County Deputy Sheriff Jeffrey Mitchell Memorial Roadway."

About 50 recruits from the local police academy stood at attention.

Another 40-or-so law enforcement officers were also in attendance.

"Having signs up on Meiss Road will act as a continuous reminder of Deputy Jeff Mitchell's service and sacrifice," said Supervisor Yee during the ceremony.

Jeff Mitchell's mother, Mary K. Mitchell, clutched her daughter-in-law, Crystal, tightly during the unveiling. Mary K. lives in western Cameron Park, "a bike-ride" away from Crystal and son Jake Mitchell, age 8.

How is Jake doing? "He's an awesome kid," said Mary K. "He's a sports nut, just like his daddy was."

Crystal Mitchell hasn't given up hope of her husband's killer being captured. "The memorial and the new signs out here will serve as a reminder that there's still a murderer out there," she said, and asked that anyone having any information about the shooting, now almost two years old, to contact the authorities.

The memorial roadway extends a half-mile in each direction from a permanent roadside for Mitchell that contains American flags, a cross, personal items from Mitchell's family, along with a permanent brass plaque honoring the deputy.

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