

Memorial: Goodding's friends, family celebrate his life

Continued from Page 1A

At the start of his tribute, Clatsop County Sheriff Tom Bergin slapped a sticker in the shape of a smile on the podium. He said the first thing everyone always noticed about Goodding was his smile.

"He always made every single person he talked to feel like you were his best friend," Bergin said.

Bergin, who was Goodding's next-door neighbor, shared stories about them four-wheeling together and sharing beers on his front porch.

"I am so proud to have known Jason," Bergin said. "He is just an incredible man."

Seaside Police Chief Dave Ham considered Goodding a close friend. "Our hearts are heavy. We are grieving the loss of our department leader, team member and friend," Ham said. "As we celebrate Jason's life today, our tears of sadness are going to turn to joy soon."

Ham spoke about fun memories boating, fishing and hiking together. Ham enjoyed visiting Goodding and getting to know his wife, Amy, and two daughters, Joslyn, 13, and Jayden, 10. When he came over to visit, Ham joked, the girls would always mispronounce his name



Clatsop County Sheriff Tom Bergin attaches a sticker reminding him of Jason Goodding's smile as he speaks at the memorial. View more photos online at www.dailystorian.com

and say, "Damn Ham is here."

Ben Ward, a childhood friend of Goodding's, and Roger Schenk, Goodding's high school coach, each spoke about Goodding's upbringing in Sherwood. Goodding was a star athlete who grew up rooting for the University of Oregon Ducks athletics and Los Angeles Lakers.

Schenk remembers Good-

ding's charisma and leadership. He had a knack for making people feel special, Schenk said.

"I wanted him to be a teacher or a coach, and he did a little bit of that," Schenk said. "He found his calling and passion was law enforcement, and he made the right choice."

The memorial was mostly a moment for Goodding's friends

and family to celebrate his life.

While the tone was often casual and humorous, the grief over Goodding's death in the line of duty was never far from the surface.

Gov. Kate Brown recognized Goodding's commitment with the Medal of Ultimate Sacrifice, which she presented to Goodding's wife.



Member of the ceremonial honor guard kneel in front of Sgt. Jason Goodding's casket during the presentation of the flag at the memorial service.

State Sen. Betsy Johnson, D-Scappoose, passionately spoke out against those who criticize law enforcement officers.

The state senator specifically called out fellow lawmakers in the state Legislature who have been experimenting with justice reinvestment programs that keep some criminals out of prison.

Phillip Max Ferry, the man who allegedly killed Goodding and was shot dead by police, was a habitual criminal who spent no more than five years in prison.

"The very officers expected to be on the front lines so the

rest of us can stay safe have been relegated to minor players in a political experiment called justice reinvestment," Johnson said.

Goodding's memory should be honored by acknowledging what is asked of the police, Johnson said, and not by criticizing them when they do their jobs.

"How tragic so many will mourn Sgt. Goodding's death today, and in the days to come will disrespect public safety professionals by making their jobs more difficult through ill-conceived policies ripe with unintended consequences," Johnson said.

Seaside: 'I think Jason would have loved to see this show of love and support'

Continued from Page 1A

Inside the convention center hall, the sheer magnitude of men and women in uniform, the regimental precision and the profound respect resonated.

Claudio Diaz of Brooklyn, New York, is a member of Brotherhood of the Fallen. They turn out when an officer is killed in the line of duty. "We come out, we also have multiple chapters, we have a Chicago chapter and an Aurora, Colorado, chapter," Diaz said. "We come and we share support for people around the nation. We all wear uniforms, we all do the same job, and we're all one big family. Six people, two for the honor guard and four from the brotherhood."

Earlier Friday, the most eerie thing was the quiet.

U.S. Highway 101, as if in mourning itself, joined in the moment of silence. The road was cleared in Goodding's memory.

The city came to a standstill and people hugged one another and cried in the streets. American flags flew everywhere, trailing the firetrucks that came from throughout the state, proudly poised to share the memory of an ultimate hero, sacrificed in the line of duty. Baker County, Marion County, Douglas County, Clark County, Oregon State Police, City of Sweet Home, La Grande and Union County. On they came.

"With our small community, and you think of the larger picture of law enforcement that protects us," Seaside's Kevin Leahy said. "I'm very good friends with Astoria Police

Chief Brad Johnston and Cannon Beach Chief Jason Schermerhorn. They're family guys, just thinking about that part ..."

His voice drifted for a moment.

The president of Seaside Rotary, Leahy and others shared memories of Goodding at the group's Thursday luncheon. "There were words and memories about Sgt. Goodding, so many memories of the community members. He coached their daughter's team, or they knew him through his other volunteer work. He was always there from beginning to end, just to reinforce what a special community we had."

The memorial was not confined to a single location — there were too many friends, family members, community

members, officials, law enforcement officers and emergency service personnel who wished to say "goodbye."

To accommodate the throng of locals and out-of-towners, venues throughout the North Coast simulcast the memorial service.

The Seaside High School gymnasium, one of the satellite locations live streaming the ceremony, started filling up just after noon. For some people, putting their grief into words was too hard. "The thing about Jason is he touched a lot of different people in a lot of different ways," said Kevin LaCoste, of Gearhart. "He was well-liked wherever he went."

He was one of Goodding's "poker buddies," and the officer also coached LaCoste's son

in football. Goodding "died way too young," LaCoste said, and the incident serves as a reminder to appreciate the ones you love, as Goodding did.

LaCoste said "there is no doubt" Goodding would have been at the memorial if it was one of his colleagues who had fallen. The turnout in honor of Goodding is "amazing," he said. "I think Jason would have loved to see this show of love and support for him," LaCoste said.

North Coast Family Fellowship and other venues in Astoria, Gearhart, Seaside and Cannon Beach were hosting groups to watch the service.

Officer Randy Huserik, with the Seattle Police Department, vacations in Seaside with his family, so he feels a personal connection to the loss of Good-

ding and how it impacts a small agency like the Seaside Police Department.

"I felt compelled to be here for the Goodding family, as well as the Seaside department," he said. "For them, something like this is devastating."

However, this sort of incident affects the law enforcement community as a whole, as well. All across the country, men and women face risks while on their jobs serving their communities. For all of them, Huserik said, "the goal at the start of the shift is to go home at the end of the shift."

"You never know when it's going to go bad, when something will go wrong," he said.

R.J. Marx and Katherine Lacaze contributed to this report.

HEALTH NOTIFICATION

Are You Hard of Hearing?



A major name brand hearing aid provider wishes to field test a remarkable new digital hearing instrument in the area. This offer is free of charge and you are under no obligation. These revolutionary 100% Digital instruments use the latest technology to comfortably and almost invisibly help you hear more clearly. This technology solves the "stopped up ears" and "head in a barrel" sensation some people experience.

If you wish to participate, you will be required to have your hearing tested in our office FREE OF CHARGE to determine candidacy and review your results with the hearing instruments with our hearing care specialist.

At the end of this evaluation, you may keep your instrument, if you so desire, at a tremendous saving for participating in this field test. Special testing will be done to determine the increased benefits of this technology.

Benefits of hearing aids vary by type and degree of hearing loss, noise environment, accuracy of hearing test, and proper fit. This is a wonderful opportunity to determine if hearing help is available for your hearing loss and get hearing help at a very affordable price.

CALL NOW IF YOU WISH TO BE INCLUDED IN THIS FIELD TEST

THIS WEEK ONLY
NOW Through Friday, February 19, 2016

Call today to make your reservation for a Hearing Aid Field Test

Miracle-Ear Center
Youngs Bay Plaza
173 S. Hwy 101
Warrenton, OR 97146
(503) 836-7921

www.miracle-ear-warrenton.com

Miracle-Ear Center
2505 Main Ave N, Suite C
Tillamook, OR 97141
(503) 836-7926

www.miracle-ear-tillamook.com



Since 1990 the Miracle-Ear Foundation™ has been providing hearing aids, follow-up care, and educational resources to people with hearing loss who demonstrate personal inability to financially provide for their hearing health needs. We do this because we believe everyone in our community deserves quality hearing instruments.

Special Notice State Employees

You may qualify for a hearing aid benefit up to \$4,000 every 4 years. Call for eligibility status.