

BackStoppers Adds Families of Two Officers Who Died in 2010

The board of directors of The BackStoppers has approved support for two St. Louis area police officers who died in 2010.

They are Corporal William "Mick" Mudd of the Vinita Park Police Department and Sgt. George Ross of the Maplewood Police Department.

The BackStoppers, a 3,000-member organization that assists the families of police officers, firefighters and emergency medical personal who die in the line of duty, approved the support at its board meeting in late May said Chief Ron Battelle, Executive Director of the group.

Cpl. Mudd, 38, died December 16 of a heart attack at home shortly after working a night shift that included providing assistance to emergency medical personal responding to a residence in Vinita Park. Cpl. Mudd spread salt on an icy street and sidewalk and assisted in carrying the resident to an ambulance. He went home after his shift and died in his sleep.

Cpl. Mudd was a 14-year veteran of the Vanita Park Police Department. He is survived by his wife Erika, an 11-year old son and an 8-year old daughter.

Sgt. George Ross, 63, suffered an apparent heart attack March 30 while driving on Interstate 55 after attending funeral services for St. Louis Metropolitan Police Officer David Haynes. He was treated by an area hospital but died of complications on April 8.

A U.S. Navy veteran, Sgt. Ross was a member of the Maplewood Police Department for 33 years and was a well known and liked throughout the Maplewood community. He is survived by his wife Marge and nine children.

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