

## VALLEJO POLICE DEPARTMENT Press Release

(707) 651-7147

November 23, 2011

Sergeant Jeff Bassett Press Information Office

## Family Authorized Obituary Escort Route for Wednesday November 30, 2011

Officer James Lowell Capoot, 45, of the Vallejo Police Department, was killed in the line of duty on November 17, 2011, in Vallejo, California. A loving and devoted father, husband, son, brother, uncle, officer, coach, neighbor and friend, Jim lived a full and extraordinary life.

Born November 2, 1966 in Little Rock, Arkansas, Jim attended local schools in Little Rock and graduated from John L. McClellan High School in 1985, where he was a distance runner on the cross country and track teams. Immediately after his graduation he enlisted in the United States Marine Corps at age 18 and was stationed in California. He was among the last active Marine troops stationed at Mare Island Naval Shipyard and while serving there he met the love of his life, Jennifer Eileen DeCarlo. The two were married at Saint Basil's Catholic Church in Vallejo on August 29, 1987.

He received an honorary discharge from the Marines in 1989 but remained an active reserve in the Marines through 1993. In 1990, he joined the California Highway Patrol and began his career as a peace officer. One of his career goals was to work as a community police officer, so in 1993 he joined the Vallejo Police Department.

For 19 years Jim distinguished himself as a Vallejo police officer while endearing himself to the Vallejo community. He served as a motorcycle officer, motorcycle instructor, driving instructor, force options instructor and SWAT officer. Jim earned two Medals of Courage and a Life-Saving Medal among other Department medals and commendations. In 2000, Jim was honored with the Officer of the Year Award. He was loved and respected by his fellow officers.

One of his other career goals was to work with young people. Throughout his first 10 years on the force he visited elementary schools in Vallejo to promote bicycle safety and to reach out to the children of the community. At the same time he was busy coaching his daughters' youth sport teams and in 2000 he created, and began directing and coaching, the Vacaville Vengeance AAU basketball organization.

Information can be provided to VPD at 800-488-9383 24 hours a day

The Solano Crime Stoppers<sup>™</sup> tip line (644-STOP) is a anonymous tip line that offers cash rewards for phone tips that solve violent and/or serious crimes committed in the Vallejo area.

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Jim coached the Vallejo High School varsity girls' basketball team and in his 2<sup>nd</sup> year led the Apaches to a 25-7 record and a Sac-Joaquin Section Division II Championship. It wasn't just the wins that were important. He brought a family atmosphere to his team and the athletic department. The focus was on hard work, discipline — both in the classroom and on the court — selflessness and teaching his players to put their teammates before themselves. He loved coaching those girls but left the bench in March 2011 to welcome into his home the two children of close family friends who were killed in a motorcycle accident in January.

A Vacaville resident since 1995, Jim loved to say, "I'm dedicated to my job, devoted to my family." He adored his wife, daughters and everyone in his immediate family. So, it is no surprise that his favorite activities took place with them and close friends. These included annual camping trips to Coloma, block parties, swim parties, family get-togethers, barbecues, tailgate parties and just hanging out at home with family and friends. He attended his daughters' sporting events and was a true supporter of them, their teammates and coaches. Somehow Jim found time to build additions to his home, race cars, do yard work, take care of the family dogs, help his neighbors, learn new wood-working skills, fix cars, and constantly text friends about the exploits of his beloved Dallas Cowboys.

His father, Lowell Jesse Capoot, preceded him in death. He is survived by his mother, Beverly Sue (Hampton) Capoot; his mother-in-law Vivian Mullen DeCarlo; his wife of 24 years, Jennifer; his three daughters, Jillian, Jamie and Justine Capoot; his sister and brother-in-law Dana and Barry Cudd; his brother-and sister-in-law Louie and Susie DeCarlo; his nephew Brandon Grote and nieces Jesseca Cudd, Savannah and Siena DeCarlo.

A police motor escort will depart Skyview Memorial Lawn, 200 Rollingwood Drive, at approximately 10:30 a.m. on Wednesday, November 30, 2011. The escort will travel Rollingwood to Benicia Road to Amador Street to Nebraska Street; arriving at Corbus Field (Vallejo High School) at 11:00 a.m. Transportation will be provided from McCormick Hall at the Solano County Fairgrounds for those who wish to attend.

In lieu of flowers, the Vallejo Police Officers Association has created a memorial fund on behalf of the Capoot family. Donations can be sent to the Officer James Capoot Family Trust, c/o Vallejo Police Officers Association, Sgt. Mark Nicol, P.O. Box 4218, Vallejo, California, 94590.