

Memorial Funeral Home

Edinburg, TX

Contact Name: Veronica Moreno

On May 2, 2006, a local family was struck with tragedy. Two of their sons are DPS Troopers in Texas and one of them had responded to a call. His brother was on his way for backup when his vehicle rolled over due to excessive speed. Unfortunately the young man died due to injuries sustained in the accident and their family was forced to deal with their loss.

This young man had worked for the department for several years and was well liked by his colleagues and superiors. Left to mourn his memory were his parents, his family and his wife who was expecting their first child. The tragedy made headline news and when we received the notification of his death we were forced to coordinate a funeral to honor his life.

First of all when we received the call to pick up his remains we had to have DPS escort us from the place where he was picked up to our funeral home. Fellow officers then stood vigil outside our funeral home as he was embalmed. Once that was complete we transported him to our facility in Edinburg where the services were going to take place. Again we had DPS officers escort us to the location. One of the duties of DPS officers is to stand vigil at the location where their fallen officer is. They spent the night outside our facility and waited for the family to come in the next morning and finalize the arrangements for him.

Being a state trooper was this young man's passion and we had to be sure that the department played an active role in his funeral. We allowed them to use our employee lounge to stay in over night as they took turns guarding the officer's casket. We coordinated with the state troopers to participate in the funeral and even got the honor guard to serve as pallbearers for the funeral.

During the visitation the chapel was decorated with photos of this young man in uniform and with his family; a frame holding an ultrasound photo of his unborn son and pictures of the nursery that the officer and his wife had decorated with teddy bears and a baseball theme. He was also into Star Wars and owned several collectors items which were also displayed.

The day of the funeral was very intense; we had members from every law enforcement agency in the area present and there were over 100 law enforcement vehicles in the procession. We decided that seven DPS vehicles would lead the procession and the rest of the vehicles would follow. We were able to get assistance from the City of Edinburg to block off roads as the procession drove by. The sight was amazing; there were no other cars on the road except for those in the procession from the time we left the funeral home until we arrived at church. There was also a helicopter that flew directly over the hearse from our funeral home to the church and to the cemetery. The graveside service was emotional with the playing of Taps and a 21 gun salute. The widow was presented with a Texas flag and hundreds of people attended the service.

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The service was very emotional not only for those persons who knew this young man but also from others who attended to show support to the family. From the moment we were notified of this young man's death until the time we brought the family back after the funeral was a non-stop production. There was an outpouring of flowers, food, monetary contributions and prayers offered to this family. The time that was spent on this funeral was tiring, both physically and emotionally, but after it was all over and his family shared how pleased they were with everything that we had done for this young man we realized that our hard work paid off and that it was all well worth it.