

Final courageous act draws 'finest honour'

By Simon Kelly, Media and Public Affairs Branch

Shirley Kidd takes solace from knowing her son's light will shine forever through the National Police Memorial.

Senior Constable Peter Kidd is one of 719 names on the memorial, having been shot and killed during a dawn raid on a house in Brisbane on July 29, 1987.

Posthumously awarded a Valour Award and Star of Courage for putting his duty ahead of his life, Senior Constable Kidd's heroic actions may have cost his own life but almost certainly prevented further tragedy.

"It makes us humble to know the man he was, humble and proud because he's so remembered," Mrs Kidd said.

"You have to be someone special to be remembered the way he was."

Senior Constable Kidd was a member of the Tactical Response Group which raided a house in Virginia to apprehend one of Queensland's most wanted criminals.

The man was considered to be extremely dangerous to the public, with intelligence warning he was heavily armed and would not hesitate to shoot at police.

Senior Constable Kidd was the first police officer through the door at 5.10am with only the torch on his weapon for light.

As the officer approached the main bedroom, the wanted criminal fired a sawn-off Ruger .223 semi-automatic rifle through the door hitting him twice in the chest.

Badly wounded and without regard for his safety, Senior Constable Kidd opened the door and fired at the gunman but was shot three more times and collapsed.

Detective Constable 1/C Steve Grant was severely wounded before the gunman was shot and killed.

Senior Constable Kidd died in hospital from his wounds, his actions regarded as ensuring the success of the operation and almost certainly preventing a siege and further loss of life.

Mrs Kidd said she was proud of her son and described watching the dedication of the National Police Memorial as the "most beautiful moment".

"It's the finest honour you could give to any police officer," Mrs Kidd said of the memorial which is backlit at night and perched on a hill across from the carillon.

"They (the officers listed on the memorial) will always know the time; they will always hear beautiful music and their lights will shine forever," Mrs Kidd said.

At a function following the dedication, Mrs Kidd and her husband Peter met Steve Grant and five of her son's pallbearers.

"(Nearly) 20 years on those boys still remember. It was just like yesterday to them," she said.

"They have great respect for him – when they talk about him they laugh and say 'remember when'."

Mrs Kidd said her thoughts still often turned to Steve Grant, who progressed to the rank of Detective Superintendent with the QPS and is currently undertaking a secondment with the Australian Federal Police as the Brisbane Airport Police Commander.

Commander Grant said Senior Constable Kidd's memory lived strongly with him.

"His significant contribution to



Senior Constable Peter Kidd.

policing and the personal enrichment he brought to my life and that of his colleagues is a memory that we passionately preserve," he said.

"The inclusion of Peter's name on this memorial makes one proud to know that his sacrifice is now permanently honoured at the national level."

Mrs Kidd said Queensland Police Commissioner Bob Atkinson had been a tower of strength to her and her husband.

They were particularly touched that Queensland police had already attached blue ribbons of remembrance to the plaques by the time family members visited the memorial on the morning after the dedication ceremony.

"I certainly was affected when I saw their ribbons there on the plaque," Mrs Kidd said.

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