

The Tragedy of David Dorn

This article is from the "Among Friends" section of the Church of God Big Sandy's website, churchofgodbig sandy.com. It was posted for the weekend of June 27, 2020.

By Dave Havir

BIG SANDY, Texas—Most people have heard about bad examples of police officers. Today, I want to talk about a good example.

On June 2, 2020, David Dorn (a 77-year-old retired police captain) was fatally shot by looters at a pawn shop in the early hours of the morning.

This was a night when thousands of citizens were protesting across the United States about the mistreatment of black citizens by white policemen.

It is fair to say that there were some citizens participating in peaceful protests.

But it is also accurate to say that there were many citizens across the country who were acting like criminals, mobs and thugs.

On that night, Mr. Dorn went to help a friend guard his pawn shop from looters (criminals who were not peacefully protesting).

On that night, Mr. Dorn was killed trying to help a friend.

Chronology of events

I want to list some articles that discussed the chronology of events.

■ An article by Kate Sheehy titled "Looters Fatally Shoot Retired St. Louis Captain [77-Year-Old David Dorn] on Facebook Live Video" was posted at ny post.com on June 2, 2020.

■ An article by Crystal Bonvillian titled "Retired Police Captain Killed on Facebook Live While Protecting Friend's Pawn Shop" was posted at wsbtv.com on June 3, 2020.

■ An article by Crystal Bonvillian titled "Arrest Made in Facebook Live Killing of Retired St. Louis Police Captain Who Was Protecting Pawn Shop" was posted at wsbtv.com on June 9, 2020.

■ An article by Becky Willeke and Kelley Hoskins titled "Hundreds Gather to Lay Retired Police Chief David Dorn Down to Rest" was posted at fox2now.com on June 10, 2020.

■ An article titled "Second Man Charged in Connection With Death of Retired St. Louis Police Captain David Dorn; 3 Others Charged With Burglary" was posted at kfvs12.com on June 17, 2020.

Thank-you message

■ An article titled "David Dorn's Wife Makes Plea Following Husband's Funeral: 'We Must Do Better . . . Life Is Very Precious' " was posted at kmov.com on June 11, 2020. Following is the article.

The widow of retired St. Louis Police Captain David Dorn delivered a "thank you" message to the community Thursday [June 11] and said "we must do better."

Sgt. Ann Dorn of the St. Louis Metropolitan Police Department was surrounded by family as she made her way to the podium at the police department headquarters.

She talked about the love and support the family has received from the community since her husband's death while protecting a pawn shop during the night of violent looting across St. Louis last week.

"He dedicated his life to the City of St. Louis, retiring at rank of captain after 38 years of service. Then as chief of Moline Acres for six years. Friend, mentor, coworker and guardian."

Sgt. Dorn's remarks came one day after her husband's funeral service.

"His life was senselessly taken from me, from us, by an opportunist who had no regard for human life or for wrong," she said, holding back tears at times.

"This didn't have to happen, but it must have been God's plan for David. We need to come together as a community and do better. We need to teach our young people that life is very precious. We as a family are going to be taking some time to focus our attention on healing. That's very important as we move forward."

Dorn thanked the police department and circuit attorney's office for its work on the case. David Dorn left behind five children and 10 grandchildren.