

EL CAJON OPTIMIST CLUB

ROOKIE OF THE YEAR 2011

TIMOTHY MCFARLAND



Officer Tim McFarland began his career with the El Cajon Police Department when he joined the Cadet Program on January 26, 2004. On November 5, 2004 Tim was initially hired by the City of El Cajon as a Maintenance Aid. He was promoted to a Communications Operator in the ECPD Communications Center on June 21, 2006, and eventually became a Police Dispatcher on June 31, 2009. Tim was hired as a Police Recruit on October 20, 2010, and attended the 86th San Diego Regional Police Academy. He graduated as a Police Officer on April 7, 2011, and began our field training program.

On August 21, 2011, while still in our field training program and under the supervision of Field Training Officer Jarred Slocum, Officer McFarland responded to a radio call of a male subject who had informed his friends and family via text messages that he had shot and killed his daughter and mother-in-law at a residence located on Prince Street in the City of El Cajon. He and Officer Slocum arrived at the location to find the suspect's vehicle parked in front of the residence and the house beginning to burn from a fire that the suspect set. As they assessed the situation, the suspect fired at the officers from an unseen location, striking Officer Slocum in the head.

After being hit, Officer Slocum moved from his position of cover towards Officer McFarland's location. Due to his injury, Officer Slocum lost consciousness, which caused him to fall into a nearby fence, remaining in the line of fire. Officer McFarland realized that Officer Slocum was no longer able to get out of the line of fire on his own and was in danger of being further injured by the suspect. He placed himself in harm's way, running from his position of cover into the line of fire, holstering his firearm, and pulling Officer Slocum to safety. Once Officer Slocum was pulled to safety, Officer McFarland stood over Officer Slocum with his weapon drawn to protect his partner until an officer rescue team was formed to extract Officer Slocum from the location so he could receive medical treatment.

Officer McFarland demonstrated incredible bravery and heroism during this incident. Had it not been for his actions this tragic situation may have had an even more tragic outcome. He is to be commended for his incredible bravery and willingness to place his own life in danger to protect his fellow brother in arms.