

Statement from Kim Renninger, Survivor of Lakewood Police Sergeant Mark Renninger

In the early hours of November 29, 2009, my husband and 3 other police officers were doing paperwork in a local coffee shop. An unknown assailant ambushed the 4 officers, killing them all in less than one minute. The suspect, Maurice Clemmons, was quickly identified but was on the run for almost 2 days. Clemmons, a 3rd strike offender with mental issues was out on bail and had nothing to lose. The most gut wrenching period for me was the time between when I was notified of my husband's death and the moment Clemmons was caught. I was in shock because of my husband's murder as well as extremely frightened because I didn't know why the murders happened or where Clemmons was. I didn't know if this man was looking to kill my family, murder other citizens or more police officers. Our community and the entire state were living in terror until Clemmons was finally shot and killed without further bloodshed.

The Blue Alert could have been an effective tool to help catch Clemmons. As soon as he was identified, all police personnel and citizens would have had access to his name and description in a much shorter amount of time. By streamlining and swiftly disseminating suspect information, similar life-ending disasters can be avoided. Unfortunately, in the last couple of years there's been way too many law enforcement deaths similar to my husband's murder. Each one has deeply affected me and is why I'm now stepping up and asking that the National Blue Alert bill be implemented to protect the citizens of this great country from perpetrators who are on the run after severely injuring or killing a law enforcement officer. I don't think this bill is something that can be ignored and needs to be moved forward.

Sincerely,

Kim Renninger

Wife of Lakewood Police Sgt Mark Renninger - E.O.W. 11-29-2009