



Press Release

Captain Neil Weaver
Government and Media Relations

Chris Loftis, Communications Director

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Office (360) 596-4013

Cell (360) 485-3983

Chris.Loftis@wsp.wa.gov

Memorial Services for Trooper Detective Eric Gunderson will be held on Monday, October 4th at 1:00 PM

WSP Headquarters - Olympia, WA – Trooper Detective Eric Gunderson’s memorial service will be held on Monday October, 4th at 1:00 p.m. at the Church For All Nations located at 111 112th Street E., Tacoma.

Detective Gunderson will be afforded full formal law enforcement honors.

The event is open to the public but seating is limited. Those unable to attend are invited to watch the proceedings via livestream and commercial television broadcasts facilitated by KING5 News and TVW.

Members of the broadcast media may contact Greg Thies at KING 5 for pool coordination at (206)-612-8800 or gthies@king5.com . For security and logistics ease, media members wishing to attend the event in person should contact Chris Loftis at 360-485-3983 or Chris.Loftis@wsp.wa.gov . On-site media should be prepared with current media outlet-issued ID and/or state issued photo ID.

Attached please find two family preferred photos for distribution.

Processional Information and Guidelines:

- Law enforcement and first responder agencies will begin mobilizing at 7:00 a.m. for the processional. The processional will leave the North Gate of JBLM at 11:15 a.m., traveling east on 112th, then turning south on Steele Street before traveling along the Spanaway loop to Military Road, then north on State Route 7 passing Pacific Lutheran University, and then turning onto 112th again for the approach to the venue. Care has been taken to minimize impact on the traveling public. However, those in the immediate area should plan for some traffic delays during this period.
- Procession staging area will be inside the JBLM North Gate located at 112th St S. & S. Tacoma Way, the North Gate entrance.
- Upon arrival at the site, individuals will be directed to their appropriate procession staging area.

- Non-uniformed law enforcement persons will need a department issued piece of identification.
- Procession check-in will start at 7:00 a.m. and will close at 9:30 a.m. (Restroom accommodations will be on site).
- A safety briefing for all personnel in the procession will be in Hanger #9 at 10:00 a.m.

For those attending, the memorial location will open at 12:00 p.m., with formal services starting at 1:00 p.m. Upon arrival, people will be on hand directing you to an appropriate parking area.

Health and Safety

For state and county health and safety compliance, procession participants are encouraged to perform self-diagnosis for any COVID-related symptoms before arrival, to stay inside their vehicle while waiting for the procession to start, and to wear masks and maintain social distancing during any and all interactions. While on JBLM property, JBLM requires you wear a mask regardless of vaccination status. Masks are required while inside the memorial venue regardless of vaccination status.

Viewing the Proceedings

Basic livestreaming may be viewed on the Washington State Patrol YouTube page at <https://youtu.be/venCqMLE2ec>. The Washington cable news channel TVW will offer full proceedings at tvw.org. [KING5](#) will be providing a pool feed for broadcast and coverage by other regional media outlets.

Trooper Detective Eric T. Gunderson #823 – A Life of Service Innovation and Sacrifice

Eric was born in 1982. He graduated from Franklin Pierce High School in Tacoma, Washington and attended Pacific Lutheran University, graduating with a Bachelor of Arts in Math-Economics/Finance in May of 2005.

- Eric began working for the state of Washington as a Revenue Agent 1 with the Department of Revenue (DOR) in October of 2005. During his time with DOR, he was nominated by his co-workers and peers for their section's team award.
- In December of 2006, Eric began working for the Washington State Patrol as a Trooper Cadet in the 17th Arming Class.
- In April of 2008, Eric graduated with the 95th Trooper Basic Training Class (TBTC) assigned to District 1, Tacoma.
- In October of 2014, Eric accepted a Trooper Detective position with the Criminal Investigation Unit assigned to Tacoma.
- In January of 2016, Eric became a member of the Special Weapons and Tactics (SWAT) Team.
- In January of 2018, Eric transferred to the Technology Liaison section of the Criminal Investigation Division assigned to Tacoma.
- In 2018, Eric was a recipient of the Chief's Award for Professional Excellence.

Eric passed away on September 26, 2021, at the age of 38 after serving the citizens of Washington State for over 16 years.

Eric was well regarded for his understanding and embrace of available technologies in law enforcement. An early adopter and enthusiast of unmanned aerial technology, his work with unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs) has been chronicled in media stories across the nation. His pioneering work has allowed the state to shorten the time of road closures during collision investigations and of specific note, his work after the 2017 Amtrak passenger train derailment in DuPont gained wide acclaim and appreciation for its precision and value

Eric traveled around the country representing the WSP as the premiere agency in the world for UAV usage. He contracted COVID-19 while providing training for other officers across the nation at an International Association of Chiefs of Police (IACP) conference in Orlando, Florida.

Eric is survived by his wife and two sons.

WSP History

Eric is the 32nd member of the Washington State Patrol family to die in the line of duty in the agency's 100 years of service to this state. WSP Chief John R. Batiste remarked, "Eric Gunderson was a respected trooper and public servant. His is the first line of duty death since we commemorated our first century of service to this state just a few weeks ago. How I had hoped our second century of service would be more forgiving." He added, "We will show our fallen hero the respect and honors his service to our state and agency deserves. We grieve the loss of this fine officer, this good husband and father, and our dear friend."

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