

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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CONTACT: Lieutenant Shawn Takeuchi 619-531-2675 or stakeuchi@pd.sandiego.gov

**The Passing of Officer Dan Walters**

**San Diego** –Today, the San Diego Police Department lost another hero who made the ultimate sacrifice: Officer Dan Walters. We would like to take a moment to reflect on his upbringing and career below.

Dan Walters attended Santana High School, where he excelled at playing catcher for their baseball team. Dan's skills were recognized by the Houston Astros, who drafted him in 1984. After five seasons of playing with Houston's Triple-A Team, Dan was traded to the San Diego Padres in 1989. Dan played in the minors until being called to catch for the Padres in the 1992 and 1993 seasons. In 1993, Dan sustained a spinal injury. Though he fought through surgery and rehabilitation, his baseball career was brought to an end.

In 1998, Dan was hired with the San Diego Police Department as a member of the 42nd Regional Academy. Assigned to Southeastern Division, Officer Walters worked as a patrol officer for five years. On November 12, 2003, Officer Walters and his partner were working 2nd watch. Around 10:30 p.m., they stopped to back up another officer on a traffic stop. Unbeknownst to the officers, they had stopped a violent domestic disturbance in progress. The other officer had been shot, but the bullet hit him in the handcuffs. As the suspect was looking for the officer, he came across Officer Walters. The suspect pointed his gun at Officer Walter's face. With no time to draw and shoot, Officer Walters attempted to disarm the suspect. During the struggle, the suspect shot Officer Walters in the neck. As the suspect was distracted, Officer Walter's partner was able to shoot and kill the suspect.

After being shot, Officer Walters was struck by a passing motorist. Officer Walters suffered two crushed cervical vertebrae. Despite rehabilitation and an outpouring of support, Dan remained confined to a wheelchair until passing away.

Dan grew up locally, played professional baseball here in San Diego and proudly served his city as a police officer. He will forever be remembered by the members of this Department.

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