

On January 1st, 2011 at 11:34am. Clark County Sheriff's Deputy Suzanne Waughtel Hopper arrived at the scene of her last call. She was dispatched to the Enon Beach campground to investigate a report at lot 84 of a shot being fired into the camper while the residents inside were asleep. She began her investigation by talking with the people inside. Her Sergeant also arrived and began to talk with the people inside the camper while she went around to the rear of the camper and began to take photos. She had no idea that the man who shot into the camper was laying in wait for her. As she began to take a photograph of a footprint, the gunman, Michael Ferryman opened his camper door just feet from Deputy Hopper and he shot her from behind with out warning or provocation. This was a fatal shot gun blast to Deputy Hopper. The Sergeant immediately came to investigate. She lay in the field of fire inches from the shooter's camper. A call was dispatched of an officer down, shot. A request for additional units to respond was dispatched. Law Enforcement officers from Springfield, German Township, Enon, Ohio State Patrol and Clark County Deputies responded. The gunman inside the camper would not respond to communication. His response was to open fire on Clark County Deputies and German Township officer Blum. The gun battle only lasted a short time, but during that time he fired multiple shots and one struck Officer Blum. When SWAT teams from Springfield, Ohio State Patrol and armored vehicles arrived we were able to, recover our fallen deputy. She was taken by Mad River Township Squad to the Miami Valley Hospital in Dayton, Ohio. My first job was to go to the Hospital and meet with the family. When I arrived at the Hospital, Dayton Police Officers and Montgomery County Deputies were waiting for me. The hospital staff could not have done more. As I traveled back to Clark County to meet with the News Media, they were supportive and understanding. On Sunday we called the First Christian Church of Springfield. This is our largest Church. They opened their doors; Senior Pastor Craig

Grammer and Bruce Ludlow lead a response from the Church and its members beyond belief. The Littleton & Rue funeral Home staff worked tirelessly all week to prepare a celebration of Deputy Hopper's life with the Honor and respect she was due. The Columbus, Ohio Police Division came to our aid. They have been through this trauma and they helped us every step of the way. They sent so many people to help with planning, traffic control and honor guard. The Springfield Police Division and Chief Moody worked with us and checked on us every day. All Area law enforcement agencies offered to man the jail and patrol the streets while the funeral was attended by Clark County Deputies. No one was prepared for the twelve hours of visitation. Law enforcement from across the United States, members of our community and people who were just touched by the tragedy came to pass before Deputy Hopper. I have never in my life witnessed the thousands that came, hundreds of Fire Fighters, Para Medics, and law enforcement and along with people from every walk of life. Hour after hour the family stood in line greeting every person that came, giving us all strength to carry on. On Friday the day of the funeral, again no one was prepared for the thousands of law enforcement officers from across the United States and other nations that came. 2,000 seats were full and hundreds more stood in lines around the church. The procession to the final resting place for Deputy Hopper was lined with people. Many had flags, hands on hearts, crying, waving, saluting, holding signs and heads bowed. At the cemetery again thousands of law enforcement had gathered, 150 bag pipers and drummers were waiting, no one could prepare us for the overwhelming support we have received. After the funeral the UAW local 402 opened their doors to all, a time of food (provided by local businesses) and fellowship. This letter is my very humble attempt to thank my community, law enforcement and all who have sent us their heart felt condolences. I personally have received over 3,000 letters and cards. I am also blessed to have a caring and compassionate staff and could not have responded as we have without them. As I write this, already this year four

officers have died in the line of duty, Deputy Suzanne Hopper being the first on January 1, 2011. I salute my community and thank them for their total support.

Sheriff Gene A. Kelly
Clark County Ohio