

## Clare County Mounted Division Volunteer Deputy Nichole Shuff End of Watch July 29, 2022



While on duty at the Clare County Fair, responding to a medical emergency, Deputy Nichole Shuff's horse lost its footing as she dismounted and both fell. Shuff suffered a severe head injury and was kept on life support for four days, until her organs could be donated. More than 60 officers lined the hospital halls in Midland to say goodbye to Deputy Nichole Shuff.

Deputy Shuff had served as a volunteer deputy with the Clare County's Sheriff's Office for two years and was also a physician's assistant. Nichole was vibrant and lived life to its fullest. She had a fearless soul, kind heart and an adventurous spirit for life. Her family and friends describe her as loving, ambitious, and beautiful inside and out. She filled the room with laughter and love, and never let anything or anyone hold her back. She loved to travel and had a passion for helping others and volunteering, and started a distant learning program in Guatemala teaching English.

She was known for her kindness, compassion and love for horses. There will be ceremonies to honor both deputy Shuff and her horse Ringo. He has been her faithful partner during her short time with the mounted division. The Clare County Sheriff's Mounted Division says the decision was already made to retire Deputy Shuff's horse, Ringo, at the end of this season. Just before Nichole's passing, Ringo gave her a final ride in the presentation of colors at the fairgrounds. He will be retired from law enforcement after her final ride to be laid to rest. Volunteer Deputy Shuff is survived by her husband. They had just gotten married in June, 2022.

RJTF President Cory Williams met with Sheriff Wilson, Undersheriff Miedzianowski and Deputy Shuff's widower, Octavian Balint, expressing how sorry we are for their loss. Due to the support and generosity of donors like you, Williams presented a \$25,000 check to Octavian Balint in honor of his wife's dedicated service and for making the ultimate sacrifice. Shuff's husband also received \$5,000 in gift cards from our great partners at the Kroger Corp of Michigan.

Octavian and the Sheriffs were all unbelievably grateful and thankful for our donors' great commitment to Michigan's fallen officers. Sheriff Wilson hugged Williams

saying what we are doing for these officers' families around the state is just amazing and so important. Williams expressed we are honored to do it, and with our donors' support we will continue to be able to recognize these brave officers' sacrifices.

