



Motor Carrier Officer Daniel Kerstetter End of Watch September 15, 2024

Motor Carrier Officer Daniel Kerstetter had served with the Michigan State Police for a year and nine months, specializing in commercial vehicle enforcement. While conducting a traffic stop, Officer Kerstetter had a semi-truck pulled over on the shoulder of the 1-75 freeway. Kerstetter was inside his patrol vehicle, while the driver of a Ford Explorer first hit a median wall and then rear-ended the patrol vehicle, crushing it into the rear of the semi-truck. The impact caused Kerstetter to be pinned in his patrol car, resulting in catastrophic injuries. He was removed from his vehicle using the jaws of life, transported to a hospital and remained on life support until his organs could be donated, signifying a final heroic act. Kerstetter is survived by his mourning wife Catherine (“Katie”) Taylor Kerstetter, their sons August (3), Daniel (5), and stepdaughter Taylor Rivers (13).

Robert J Turner Foundation’s President Cory Williams had the great privilege to meet with Katie, widow of Daniel Kerstetter at the Michigan State Police Metro North Post. During a heartfelt conversation, Cory says, “I told Katie that as a husband and a father myself, I loved what she said at the funeral while looking upwards and speaking to her husband in heaven from the podium.” She had said, "Baby, I will never forget you and will make sure our kids know all the wonderful things about you so they will never forget you." She said that her husband and Daniel Jr. used to ride bikes together everyday, but little Daniel hasn't ridden his bike since, saying, "I'm waiting for daddy to come back and ride with me."

Katie mentioned how proud her husband Daniel was to wear the uniform and be a state police officer. She said her two boys loved it too and wanted their dad to always wear his uniform. Made possible by our generous donors, Cory presented Katie \$25,000 from Robert J Turner Foundation and \$5,000 in Kroger gift cards. She was so appreciative and thankful and stated she would use the money for the kids’ schooling. She said a couple of times how wonderful it is what we are doing for families of fallen officers.

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